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Gamsakhurdia Supporters Seize TV Center

A group of some 300 supporters of former Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, seized a television and radio center in Tbilisi in the early hours of 24 June, Moscow Radio reports. Valter Shurgaya, the leader of the action and former Supreme Council deputy, delievered a speech over Tbilisi Radio calling "Georgians and non-Georgians who love Georgia" to hold a rally at the occupied television station building and urged them to send "an invitation to the Georgian president, to come and occupy his post so that we can begin our work." He also read two decrees signed by Gamsakhurdia promising those who support and prove their loyalty to him "will be freed from responsibility for acts committed in the past against the authorities."

Later that day, the TV center was freed by the National Guard and 27 of Gamsakhurdia's supported were arrested, ITAR-TASS reports. About 40 people died and over 100 were injured during the operation. Moscow Radio reports that Eduard Shevardnadze addressed the Georgian population and announced "emergency measures...to nip this escapade in the bud."

Russian, Ukrainian Summit Yeilds Agreements

ITAR-TASS reports that on 23 June, at the conclusion of summit talks held in Dagomys between Russian and Ukrainian delegations, led by Presidents Yeltsin and Kravchuk, an agreement was signed on the further development of interstate relations. Commenting on the success of the talks, Ukraine's Kravchuk noted: "'We all know today that the Dagomys agreement marks a radical turnabout in relations between the two great states, a turnabout which should take our relations onto a full-blooded, equal, interstate level.'" Ukraine "adopted a decision on the complete destruction of nuclear weapons on its territory," and "the two countries' parliaments will accelerate work on ratifying the strategic offensive weapons treaty."

Regarding the Black Sea Fleet, Yeltsin said that the sides agreed "'to continue talks currently under way, but also made a step forward: The bases where this Fleet is currently deployed will be jointly run and financed.'" On interethnic relations, Russia and Ukraine agreed to "mutually defend the interests of Russians, Ukrainians, and citizens of other nationalities in their own countries." Ukraine and Russia also agreed "to preserve the principle of openness of their state borders, with a gradual introduction of customs controls in line with international standards." As a result of the talks, "it was decided to hold summit meetings on a regular basis and to set up a mechanism for coordinating actions to implement the decisions adopted."

Decree on Russian Ruble Issued

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA publishes President Yeltsin's Decree No. 626 "On Measures To Protect the Russian Federation Monetary System" which will "protect" the ruble as the Russian Federation's monetary unit, establish Federation control "over the money supply within its borders," and balance Russia's accounts with other states "using the ruble as a means of payment." The decree requires settlements for "reciprocal deliveries of goods" between Russia and other states to use the ruble and to be carried out "in accordance with international commercial and banking practice." The government, "in conjunction with the Bank of Russia," will hold talks on implementing measures with states wishing to retain the ruble "as the legitimate means of payment on their territory."

Moscow authorities decided to create a "single system of automatic money circulation," INTERFAX reports, as a "simple and convenient" method to solve cash shortages and "rid stores of unnecessary transactions." "Debit computer cards" will be issued to "completely replace savings books." The new system is expected to save the cost of currency circulation in Moscow, or "one fifth of each ruble."

Shaposhnikov Assesses Arms Control Agreement

LD2306180592 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1510 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] The recent strategic arms deal between Moscow and Washington gives a renewed impetus to nuclear disarmament by the Commonwealth of Independent States on the central issue in military relations within the entity. Earlier, CIS heads of state agreed for all nuclear weapons to be transferred to Russia by 1994 for subsequent destruction under joint control. The commander in chief of the Commonwealth forces, Marshal Shaposhnikov, explains what changes have taken place since:

Marshal Shaposhnikov says summit talks in Alma-Ata and Minsk failed to take into account the huge cost of weapons transfer to Russia. In his view this must be made first part [as heard] of the arms cuts agreement reached by Presidents Yeltsin and Bush for two main reasons. First is the economic considerations, and the second, the naming of the year 2000 as the deadline for nuclear weapons destruction.

We asked Marshal Shaposhnikov what he makes of the new strategic arms agreement reached in Washington.

Because of the remaining difficulties on the Russian side, Marshal Shaposhnikov described it as an agreement of intent for the time being. He said the bulk of the Commonwealth nuclear stockpile was ground-based and stationary, compared with America's which was sea-launched and mobile. But he spoke of the need for further work to see that there is no damage to either side's security. Marshal Shaposhnikov agrees there is no alternative to disarmament, but wants parity; he said that 50 years of posturing had been damaging to the country's economy, but he warned against all-out, reckless disarmament, calling for reason and for careful calculations to be made first. We asked him was it true that the Washington deal had been struck behind the back of the military.

Marshal Shaposhnikov said that all of that came under lengthy discussion both by the CIS Chief Command and Russia's Defense Ministry, which explains why the Russian foreign minister, Mr. Andrey Kozyrev, was so tough at the negotiations in Washington and London. The marshal raised the possibility that President Yeltsin must have found a way for compromise and that it was up to the military to finalize the agreement.

Arms Cuts Accord With U.S. Criticized

PM2306135192 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Jan 92 p 3

[Viktor Nikolayev "Observer's Opinion": "Hope Is the Last Thing To Die"]

[Text] The accords reached in the sphere of nuclear disarmament by George Bush and Boris Yeltsin in Washington last week were sensational in the eyes of many people. It would appear to be the case. A new major breakthrough was indeed made by the two powers to greatly reduce their nuclear arsenals and, consequently, to strengthen mutual security and consolidate world peace.

But at the same time you are also bound to see another "sensation"—once again the Americans have simply duped us at a summit. And, what is more, the Russian side itself did much to ensure that this happened. You get the impression that it joyfully conceded almost all the most important points at the nuclear talks: Even before they began, it had started to stand down its most awesome weapons—the SS-18 heavy missiles, and during the actual talks obligingly bestowed on America manifest superiority in the number of nuclear weapons carried by its aircraft and submarines. The Americans wanted for their own patent advantage to bury the ABM Treaty—at your service, sir. There was no proper bargaining even for the sake of observing the proprieties. And yet this treaty, as military experts remark, has—in terms of a whole number of parameters—been very beneficial in ensuring Russia's security.

As a result of all these strange, not to say large, concessions, the symmetry of the system of equal security, built up through such huge efforts, will be completely destroyed in the most blatant way. And if we dispense with evasive diplomatic language, it is clear that the result of the just-ended talks on nuclear arms reduction represents not just our most dangerous concessions to America, but essentially **capitulation** to it.

You will immediately ask whether we are not by such conclusions whipping up even greater hysteria in our society, which is already worn out by the sharp onslaught of the market and frenzied political fratricide? If there are any doubts on this score, look again at the map of the world. The geopolitical positions of the United States and Russia are quite different. We live surrounded by a countless number of American and NATO military bases, from which any point on our territory could be reached in the twinkling of an eye by ground-, air-, or sea-launched missiles, without their even resorting to those nuclear systems based on U.S. territory proper.

How and with what will we respond if this happens? Will we be strong enough? That's the crux of it. We are burying with the greatest joy our own ground-launched ICBM's with multiple warheads. In our headlong rush to a market economy our tattered nuclear ships and submarines would, if we can find the fuel for them, still try to get through to their target through the powerful, multilayered American search-and-destroy system. Do not forget either about SDI here, which we, on our own initiative, were about to help the Americans improve.

I recently contacted certain generals and other officers who belong to the command and control structures of the strategic nuclear forces and who took part to a greater or lesser extent in the preparation of the "truly historic" documents. I wanted to discover why we actually made the concessions? Perhaps this is some highly sophisticated game beyond the ken of ordinary folk? My interlocutors, who expressed—to a man—the desire to remain anonymous, for, as one of them said, "I don't want to become a pensioner the next time your newspaper comes out," were unanimous that cuts must be made, but not so recklessly.

"By this agreement," my interlocutor said, "we have wrecked, not strengthened, strategic stability, the most important principle of equal security!..."

"But who prevented your saying all this aloud even before the visit to Washington?" I asked.

"Don't be naive," he replied. "You know what the upshot would be. In such situations you are constantly having to choose between your conscience and your job. Two colleagues of mine, for example, were instructed to expeditiously prepare a document which 'would convincingly demonstrate' that we had made no concessions to the Americans. And what happened, then? One 'promptly fell ill,' while the other begged to be sent on an assignment..."

I still cherish the hope that during the ratification of the capitulatory agreements in the Russian Supreme Soviet, its members will make solid efforts to determine why it was that the president, who publicly promised before his departure for Washington to make no concessions to America, suddenly delivered such a slap in the face to his own people when there?

Hope, as is well known, is the last thing to die.

Radiation 'Hot Spots' Still Found in Moscow

PM1906141392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Video report by Ye. Blokhin and V. Mikosha; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Video starts with announcer followed by shot of van moving down road] [Announcer] The next report could be called sensational. Radioactive hot spots have been found in Moscow.

[Blokhin] Do you remember the words of the Vysotskiy song—"I went uranium-hunting in Moscow with a pickax"? It turns out that he wasn't that far from the truth. This is a 1982 map of Moscow. The red spots—and there are 630 of them—are areas of radiation pollution. Top-secret burials of dangerous waste had been carried out by institutes and plants since the fifties. With the help of "Geoekotsentr" specialists nearly all of them have been detoxified. Apart from a few—such as in Victory Park. Gamma radiation here is more than 150 microroentgens an hour. The curious thing is that the enterprises which work with radioactive materials—and there are approximately 1,500 of them in Moscow—may yet turn the city into a radioactive dump. It's expensive to store waste at missile test ranges. [video shows L.I. Dmitrakov, director of "Geoekotsentr"]

[Dmitrakov] We find 50-60 radiation pollution hot spots in Moscow every year. That's every single year. Despite the fact that we're doing this work in areas that we've covered before.

[Blokhin] We don't know who will be looking for radioactive waste dumps in the Russian capital in the future—Moscow and Moscow Oblast are so far refusing to finance the "Geoekotsentr." [video shows Moscow map, interior of unidentified installation, Dmitrakov, readings in park]

Minister Quizzed on Planned Warhead Elimination

PM2306143992 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Jun 92 p 3

["Express Interview" with Professor V.N. Mikhaylov, Russian Federation minister for atomic energy, by Anatoliy Pokrovskiy; place and date not given: "Dismantling Bombs Is Not Simple"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] The agreement between the United States and Russia to eliminate a large number of nuclear warheads is not only a major political step, but also a very complex technological task. Professor V.N. Mikhaylov, Russian Federation minister of atomic energy, gave PRAVDA a preliminary assessment of this aspect of the question.

[Pokrovskiy] Viktor Nikitovich, presumably performance of this task lies on the shoulders of your ministry?

[Mikhaylov] Of course. The missiles will be dismantled by those who made them. This operation will be carried out at the same enterprises where the corresponding products were created.

[Pokrovskiy] Evidently it is not a cheap or fast business....

[Mikhaylov] I can name a preliminary figure—dismantling a nuclear charge is only 20 percent cheaper than creating it. But it cannot be ruled out that an "insurance payment" will be required, and then dismantling could turn out to be more expensive than assembly. And of course, it will take several decades and several tens of thousand billion rubles. Therefore we cannot rule out the possibility of international cooperation involving foreign funding. And we will pay by using the nuclear materials in power engineering.

[Pokrovskiy] Incidentally, reports have appeared that the Americans are already prepared to allocate us $400 million to create a depository for nuclear materials in Tomsk-7.

[Mikhaylov] Yes, there is talk of this, although we have not received a cent yet. At the same time, the issue of storing nuclear materials is one of the most important. Most importantly, it is not so much a technological as a political question. It is the politicians who must consider all the subtleties of ensuring the nonproliferation of fissionable materials, what happens if they leak, and the possibilities of utilizing them.

[Pokrovskiy] In short, both diplomats and scientists have a lot of work ahead....

[Mikhaylov] Of course; after all, we will be solving very difficult problems which mankind has never before encountered on such a scale.

Solton Sees World 'Becoming a Safer Place'

LD2206161792 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Commentary by Yuriy Solton]

[Text] Next, Yuriy Solton analyzes the political side of the Washington agreement to slash strategic offensive arms still further.

The new agreements providing for a two-thirds cut in the most powerful nuclear arms of the two countries took a mere five months to draft. Previous agreements and of a far lesser scale required fifteen years. This contrast alone shows the degree of trust between Russia and the United States. It was not a dialogue between two super powers seeking global supremacy or potential enemies, but partners in building a new democratic world order.

Before, it would take years to find out whether or not the other side would gain anything from the reduction of even one missile. The general climate of fear and mutual suspicion was an excuse for that.

The era of confrontation is now gone. These days agreements are based on mutual trust and unilateral and reciprocal moves.

However, this does not mean that Moscow and Washington are careless in their attitude to security matters. But we point out that in drafting a new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty the ultimate objective was to ensure that neither side should have any reason to suspect, even hypothetically, that security might be harmed. This goal seems to have been achieved.

However, in both the United States and Russia there are certain circles who still view the agreements signed by President Yeltsin and President Bush from the old angle—namely, who stands to gain and who stands to lose.

Rightwingers in Russia seeking, revenge for their defeat in August last year, have been quick to say that the Washington agreements are against Russia's national interests. President Yeltsin has described such statements as insulting. He described the Strategic Arms Reduction Agreement as a very good basis for stability in the world and for calm in each family and the certainty that there will be no war.

Indeed, how many nuclear devices need there be to make a country secure against any incidents?

Currently Russia and the United States have a total of 21,000 powerful strategic nuclear warheads carried by bombers, submarines and land-launched missiles. As a result of the reduction, each side will have three thousand to three and a half thousand such warheads.

Is that many or few?

It is too many. Already now Moscow and Washington should think what they should do next to reduce nuclear arms still further.

Russia has already started working on specific measures to prepare for the elimination of strategic missiles and warheads. This type of military hardware will be eliminated at three places: near Arzamas, Chelyabinsk and Sverdlovsk. Besides in a goodwill gesture, Russia has begun to withdraw from operational service heavy missiles with multiple warheads—the SS-18. The United States has taken similar steps. Britain and France have declared their intention to reduce nuclear arms, too. The world is becoming a safer place to live in.

NATO Role in Curbing CIS Disputes Opposed

PM2406092192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Jun 92 p 3

[Report by correspondent Colonel O. Falichev: "Marshal of Aviation Ye. Shaposhnikov: I Am Opposed to NATO Forces Being Used to Settle Our Domestic Conflicts"]

[Text] On 19 June representatives of the press and television were invited to the CIS Joint Armed Forces Main Staff (No. 41 Leningradskiy Prospekt). This was perhaps the first time since the move there from Arbat Square that journalists were received by the commander of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov.

The commander in chief gave his impressions of the trips he had made around certain CIS countries, in particular Byelarus and Ukraine, and described the measures bound up with preparation for the next conference of Commonwealth heads of state in Moscow on 6 July. The following figure among the main issues to be discussed there: the further improvement of existing structures of collective security and the establishment of new ones; the appointment of a number of deputy commanders in chief; and social problems affecting officers whom fate has placed outside their own national territories...

Another issue of no small importance will also probably be discussed:

"We cannot rule out that local conflicts could occur on the external borders of the CIS because of territorial claims on the states which formed in place of the former USSR," Marshal of Aviation Shaposhnikov said. "But I am opposed to NATO's obtaining the right within the CSCE framework to use its armed forces to settle them..."

This same viewpoint is held by a number of other politicians and defense ministers of Commonwealth countries. Therefore the conference should examine the issue of creating "rapid-response" forces which could be under the operational command of the CIS Joint Armed Forces commander in chief and be employed by decision of Commonwealth countries—not for war, but for disengagement and for ensuring that all conflict issues are resolved by political means. Military commanders ready to head these forces have been nominated.

As people will know, Marshal of Aviation Shaposhnikov intends to visit another two Commonwealth states in the Central Asian region—Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan—before the conference starts its work.

Commander Cited on Attacks Along Tajik Border

LD2306162892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1600 GMT 23 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, June 23 TASS—The recent attacks on CIS border guards stationed along the Tajik border are "dangerous attempts which can lead to unpredictable consequences", a senior military CIS commander told the local "NARODNAYA GAZETA" on Tuesday [23 June].

Colonel Romas Yankauskas, deputy head of a group of the Central Asian Border District, disclosed that attacks on border units with the aim of seizing weapons have become often of late. On June 21 an armed gang attacked on three trucks a border guard post in the Pyandzh Region. The bandits threatened to kill the border guards if they do not give them weapons. The attack was repelled without casualties.

Small and big armed groups of transgressors are actively attempting to cross the Afghan border of late to receive weapons or other help from local mujaheddin, Yankauskas added.

The border guards will stop all transgressors as it is their task to protect the border according to the treaty on collective security of the Commonwealth, the colonel said, adding, however, that the task is not an easy one. An armed group has blocked the town of Pyandzh, bordering on Afghanistan, where a military township is situated and hundreds of families of border guards live.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 24 Jun

LD2406054992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0445 GMT 24 Jun 92

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, June 24 TASS—The results of the meeting of the presidents of Russia and Ukraine and the development of events at the flashpoints of the former Soviet Union are the principal topics in the morning editions of the Moscow-based newspapers today.

The results of the Tuesday [23 June] meeting between Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk at Dagomys, southern Russia, "have surpassed all expectations", KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA points out.

"Russia and Ukraine have reached agreement once again," writes NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA. In an interview given to the newspaper during the talks, Russia's acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar voiced hope for progress in a settlement of the two countries' economic problems. In particular, he pointed out a very big disproportion and a negative balance of payments between Ukraine and Russia: about 100,000 million roubles over five months.

"The army of Azerbaijan is on the offensive. But this does not guarantee a success," points out KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) in comment on combat operations in Nagorno-Karabakh. From the viewpoint of military might, certain advantages are so far on Armenia's side despite Azerbaijan's higher overall economic potential.

Therefore, the newspaper believes, during the present offensive the Azerbaijani side "is unlikely to attain all the objectives that have been set. Fighting, most probably, would lead to the exhaustion of the armed formations of the two sides and to a bloodshed but not to the seizure of strategic points or a military solution to the Karabakh problem".

The recent incident in Tskhinvali, the capital of South Ossetia, when Russian combat helicopters returned the fire on Georgian National Guard positions, has brought about the growth of anti-army sentiments in Georgia itself. Provocations against Russian servicemen have become frequent and there has been loss of life, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA reports.

In South Ossetia, according to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA and KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, "genocide against the Ossetian people is being continued". The increased effectiveness of the Georgian side's actions, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA believes, is connected with the emergence of Russian hirelings—military professionals—among the ranks of the National Guard.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA carries an interview with Russian hirelings among the so-called Russian National Legion who side with the Ossets. According to them, the number of Russian fighters in the ranks of Tskhinvali defenders is "smaller than that of those on the Georgian side".

"About 10,000 refugees have already crossed Ukrainian-Moldovan border", KRASNAYA ZVEZDA points out in confirmation of reports about a tragic aggravation of the situation in the Dniester region.

The newspaper refers to a news conference given in Moscow by Russian Government and parliament representatives who returned from the conflict zone.

Participants in the news conference described the actions of the Moldovan side "as a veritable genocide against the civilian population". According to estimates made by the leaders of Bendery, which has become a focus of fighting, and published by KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, about 500 people have already been killed in recent days.

Analysing the latest statements by the Russian leadership about Moldova and Georgia, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA draws a conclusion that the pronouncements can be interpreted, in point of fact, as Russia's declaration of war on two republics at once. The chosen reliance on a threat of the use of force is indicative of the weakness of Russian diplomacy and would not help resolve any of the problems, the newspaper maintains.

This is also the subject of an article by Vital Tretyakov, editor-in-chief of NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA. His opinion is that as regards the Dniester region the Moldovan authorities "provoked some top Russian officials into making such statements. So, there is lack of responsibility at least on both sides".

"The Dniester region and Ossetia are the first serious test for Russian foreign policy," Tretyakov writes. "On the one hand, Russia should not intervene in conflcts but, on the other hand, it may not remain indifferent to the destiny of Russians and Ossets.

"Only one thing becomes clear: in the near future Russia will be surrounded by no means friendly states. A position-of-strength foreign policy becomes, as a rule, the consequence of such a state of affairs".

The consolidation of democratic forces is the main condition for a successful continuation of reforms in Russia, Deputy Premier Andrey Shokhin said in an interview published in today's NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA. He also describes the main orientations of foreign economic activities, primarily talks with the International Monetary Fund about the provision of aid to Russia.

The findings of a public opinion poll published by NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA indicate that one-third of Russians still support President Yeltsin.

Forty-eight militiamen sustained injuries here on Monday [22 June] during an unsanctioned meeting of opposition forces, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA reports.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA describes the opposition-arranged spread of rumours about meeting participants allegedly killed by militia as an "arson attack on the Reichstag" of the 1992 summer vintage.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA believes that the June 22 developments in Moscow "have diminished hope that a way out of the present political situation can be found in a peaceful, constitutional way". According to the newspaper, 76 people, including 28 militiamen, were injured during clashes.

In an interview with NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, Tulegen Zhukeyev, adviser to the president of Kazakhstan, describes the priorities of the republic's foreign policy.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has learned that a negative attitude is being expressed in the General Staff of Russia's Armed Forces with regard to the United Nations Security Council's request to send a second Russian battalion to Yugoslavia as part of a U.N. military contingent operating there.

However, the newspaper points out, the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is in favour of complying with this request. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA expresses misgivings "lest the Russian military should find themselves drawn into other people's civil war" in the light of the exacerbation and internationalisation of the Yugoslav crisis

International Affairs

More on Russian, Ukrainian Delegation Talks

Summit Issues Outlined

LD2306115192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0950 GMT 23 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova, Gennadiy Talalayev, and Yuriy Sizov]

[Text] Dagomys (southern Russia), 23 Jun—The main purpose of the current Russian-Ukrainian presidential summit is to place the two countries' relationship onto a footing of mutual understanding and cooperation, Vyacheslav Kostikov, press secretary to the Russian president stressed to journalists. Accordingly, there are four types of issue to be examined. The first concerns the overall state of the relationship. An effective mechanism for talks to be continued is essential. The question will also be raised of strengthening Russian-Ukrainian cooperation within the CIS and broadening the two countries' interaction in resolving conflict situations in the Commonwealth.

Russia will be seeking clarification of Ukraine's attitude toward the CIS, Kostikov emphasized. The fact is that Ukraine has yet to sign 40 percent of the agreements achieved within the CIS framework, and has added its own provisos to another 10 percent. Russia will be proposing that Ukraine increase its involvement in the CIS, and in particular, that the two countries pool efforts to prepare for the Commonwealth's heads-of-state summit in Moscow on 6 July. Russia will also be advocating the establishment of an effective mechanism under CIS auspices to avert future and resolve existing conflicts, especially that in the Dniestr region.

The second important group of issues is military-political. Russia wants to clarify Ukraine's stance regarding nuclear weapons and accession to the nonproliferation treaty, and would also like to discuss the status of the strategic forces stationed in Ukraine and obtain an outline solution to the Black Sea fleet issue.

Regarding the third group of issues, finance and economics, Kostikov commented that Russia intends to agree with Ukraine on division of existing non-cash ruble holdings and on issues arising from Ukraine's impending introduction of its own currency. Ukraine is insisting on a division of assets, including those abroad. An agreement on Russian and Ukrainian transition to separate monetary and credit systems is essential.

Regarding expansion of treaty and legal relations, the press secretary said that Russia wants to confirm a list of priority treaties and accords for drafting. During these talks Russia will be conducting itself as the successor state to the USSR, its status as such having been recognized by the international community—including Ukraine—via a UN Security Council vote. Russia will be seeking to have Ukraine ratify the START and nuclear nonproliferation treaties by the end of this year as a nonnuclear state, and remove its nuclear weapons from its territory by the end of 1994.

Russia also intends to voice its serious concern over Ukrainian rulings that in effect, establish dual control and command over strategic nuclear weapons stationed in Ukraine. This is seriously disrupting the command of nuclear forces and the principle of a unified control over them; it is also blurring the responsibility for nuclear safety, and to an extent, is a disavowal of Ukraine's nonnuclear status, Kostikov stated.

The summit will deal with complex border and customs issues between Russia and Ukraine, whose shared border amounts to 1,270 km, and which has yet to be recorded by treaty documents and is not signposted. Ukraine is setting up its own border forces and coordinating work with Russia to safeguard external borders. Russia is facing a difficult dilemma: Either Ukraine accedes to the CIS accords on visa and customs unions, or Russia will have to strengthen its border with Ukraine. Ukraine is raising the issue of sharing out artifacts of cultural value, while Russia believes that this is completely at variance with civilized practice and will inflict significant harm on relations between the two nations.

Grachev on Control of Weapons

LD2306105192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1000 GMT 23 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Dagomys (Southern Russia), 23 Jun—"The Ukrainian delegation is insisting on administrative control of strategic nuclear weapons deployed on its territory," said Army General Pavel Grachev, Russia's minister of defense, to the ITAR-TASS correspondent in the corridor at the Dagomys talks today.

"This would essentially lead to dual subordination of strategic units—to Ukraine and to the CIS Joint Armed Forces," he said. This means a situation in which issues such as paying for the upkeep of servicemen, taking charge of routine drafts, and providing housing, would fall in the area of competence of the Ukrainian military command.

"Russia does not agree with this," the minister stressed. "Our view is unambiguous: the operational control of strategic forces must be exercised through the CIS Joint Armed Forces. We have agreed to prepare a working document in which we will attempt to agree on our positions at the level of experts." In the afternoon it will become known how productive this work has been.

"Although legally the strategic missile forces are, following the Lisbon meeting, Russian and Russia is fully responsible for their use," the minister said, "for the time being the missiles are on the territory of four states and they are to be managed by the Main Command of the CIS Joint Armed Forces and the Strategic Forces Command of the Commonwealth."

Yeltsin, Kravchuk on Dialogue

OW2306174092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1713 GMT 23 Jun 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] [No dateline received] Throughout the day, INTERFAX [IF] has been providing detailed information on the current talks in Dagomys between the presidents of Russia and Ukraine. At the time of this release of the Presidential Bulletin, the dialogue, in the assessment of President Boris Yeltsin, "is continuing in a constructive spirit, both parties seeking to resolve the problems which have accumulated. Those who hoped that we would run away from each other as result of our meeting were grossly mistaken," he said. Boris Yeltsin assured the journalists that in several hours President Kravchuk and himself will have "a lot of good and pleasant news" to share with the press.

INTERFAX's special correspondent Vyacheslav Terekhov reports that the presidents conceded not to touch on the problem of the Crimea. In the meantime, they agreed to show restraint in addressing the issues relating to the Black Sea Fleet discussing them "quietly, without emotions". Russia views reaching a full-scale political agreement with Ukraine as its primary objective at the talks, which goal presupposes the inception of a mechanism for keeping these talks going. Russia is also going to raise the problem of strengthening its cooperation with the Ukraine within the framework of the CIS and furthering the cooperation of the two countries in the area of settling conflict situations developing in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Answering the INTERFAX correspondent's query as regards Ukraine's national currency, Russia's acting premier Yegor Gaydar qualified this problem as crucial and highly complicated. Nonetheless, he expressed a conviction that Russia would manage to find a mutually beneficial solution to this problem in a civilized manner, as it did with Estonia.

President Kravchuk said that the talks in Dagomys have enabled him to resolve a number of problems which he previously regarded as extremely complicated. "We did not postpone them, but we resolved them," he emphasized.

Boris Yeltsin revealed that he is meeting with President Mircea Snegur of Moldova in Istanbul on June 25. In his words, it will be a quadripartite rather than bilateral meeting: "Kravchuk with myself, and Snegur with Iliescu". The Russian president also said that the talks will be focusing on the situation in Dniester region.

On June 24, President Boris Yeltsin is planning to meet with chairman of Georgia's State Council Eduard Shevardnadze.

Also participating in the meeting in Dagomys will be the heads of parliament of South and North Ossetia. The press service of the Georgian State Council maintains, however, that Eduard Shevardnadze would not go to Dagomys if he received a confirmation of the report that Georgia was not accepted in the United Nations due to Russia's objections.

IF Note: The information about Russia's objections to accepting Georgia to the UN was released by the Ostankino TV company in the morning news bulletin Tuesday [23 June]. Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs where the INTERFAX correspondent applied for clarification as regards Moscow's position neither confirmed nor denied the information about Russia's blocking the admission of Georgia to the UN.

Russian-Ukrainian Agreement

LD2306222792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2110 GMT 23 Jun 92

["Agreement Between the Russian Federation and Ukraine on the Further Development of Interstate Relations"]

[Text] [No dateline as received]—The Russian Federation and Ukraine, while striving to strengthen friendly partnership ties based on universally accepted norms of international law and noting the contribution made by the peoples of Russia and Ukraine to the development of the democratic processes in both states and the responsibility for further deepening them, have agreed on the following:

1. The sides will build their relations as friendly states and immediately will start drawing up a new wide-scale political treaty that will reflect the new qualities of the relations between them. Until such a treaty is concluded, the sides will unswervingly observe the provisions of the 19 November 1990 treaty between the USSR and Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic and the subsequent Ukrainian-Russian agreements.

2. Aware of the reality of the threat from the antidemocratic forces of both extreme left and extreme right persuasions, the sides state their resolve to undertake all necessary measures to defend the constitutional order and citizens' rights and liberties.

3. The sides will regularize their mutual payment obligations as of 1 July 1992 and will undertake coordinated actions to reorganize the payment settlement relations, including settling the accounting between economic subjects, taking into account the forthcoming introduction of the Ukrainian national currency.

4. The sides will proceed from world market prices in their mutual settlements for goods and services. For

clearing the ensuing debts, the sides will grant each other long-term credits on favorable terms.

5. The sides are setting up an interstate bilateral commission for the regulation of trade and economic and cooperative relations, including relations between enterprises of the defense complex. They also are setting up a mixed group of experts to study and prepare proposals for settling questions on the procedures for redeeming securities issued by the government and central bodies of the former USSR.

6. The sides will undertake efforts to ensure the speediest ratification of an agreement on the procedure for settling disputes connected with the implementation of economic activity from 20 March 1992.

7. The sides will create a coordinated mechanism for handling the internal debt of the former USSR, which was formed as a result of the confiscation of the funds of enterprises and organizations by the Union government.

8. The sides reaffirm their adherance to the principle of the openness of the state borders between them. In this context they will determine the rules for customs control and a visa-free regime for the movement of the citizens of both states.

The sides will cooperate in putting a stop to smuggling and the illegal trade in drugs, weapons, and other illegal activities.

9. Noting that at present in the sphere of interethnic relations neither Russia nor Ukraine has grounds for alarm or mutual claims, they will conclude a corresponding agreement and take all other measures to protect the interests of people of Russian descent on the territory of Ukraine and of Ukrainian descent on the territory of Russia.

10. The sides will cooperate in overcoming and settling conflicts that might damage their security or in any other way substantially affect their interests.

11. The sides confirm their adherence to the existing agreements, which define the status of the strategic forces of the CIS Joint Armed Forces. They have agreed to continue the consultations with the aim of reaching accords on the implementation of the obligations entered into in accordance with the treaty on reducing and limiting strategic offensive arms of 31 July 1991, the Lisbon protocol of 23 May 1992, and agreements concluded earlier pertaining to strategic nuclear forces. The sides will take measures to ratify as quickly as possible the treaty on conventional armed forces in Europe of 19 November 1990 and to implement it, and will cooperate in questions concerning the fulfillment of this international act.

12. The sides will continue the talks connected with the utilization of the means being made available by Germany to finance the withdrawal of the troops.

13. The sides have agreed on the transfer to Ukrainian ownership of a part of the former USSR's property abroad, through making individual buildings available in the near future to house diplomatic and consular missions and to enable their normal functioning. A joint commission of the Russian Federation and the Ukrainian ministries of foreign affairs which will submit relevant proposals to the Government of the Russian Federation is being set up with this purpose in mind.

14. In connection with the creation of their own armed forces, the sides confirmed the importance of continuing talks to create a Russian Navy and a Ukrainian Navy in the Black Sea on the basis of the Black Sea Fleet. They agreed on a treaty basis to make use of the existing system of bases and material and technical supply. The sides agreed to refrain from unilateral actions before the conclusion of negotiations.

15. The servicemen of Russia and Ukraine called up to serve in units forming part of the conventional forces of the CIS will take their oath to the states of which they are citizens.

16. The sides will continue work to improve interparliamentary links and will step up the activity of the interparliamentary commission of Russia and Ukraine and bilateral cooperation between standing committees and commissions of the supreme soviets in the legislative sphere.

17. In order for Russian-Ukrainian relations to develop along the path of friendship, cooperation, and partnership, the sides agreed that summit meetings should be held on a regular basis. A negotiations mechanism will be created on the basis of state delegations to draft a full-scale political treaty and to prepare such meetings, as well as to coordinate actions to fulfill decisions adopted at the meetings.

18. The agreement comes into force from the day it is signed.

Drawn up in the town of Dagomys on 23 June 1992 in two genuine copies in Russian and Ukrainian, with both texts having equal force.

[Signed] President of Russia B. Yeltsin
President of Ukraine L. Kravchuk
R. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet
I. Plyushch, chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet
Ye. Gaydar, acting chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the Government of Russia
V. Fokin, prime minister of Ukraine

News Conference Held

LD2306230592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2117 GMT 23 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova, Yuriy Sizov, and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Dagomys, 23 Jun—Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk held a news conference here and expressed great satisfaction with the results of today's Russo-Ukrainian summit and the agreement signed between Russia and Ukraine on further development of interstate relations.

Boris Yeltsin said that over the last 12-18 months, relations between Russia and Ukraine "had not been totally smooth" and that "there was some unevenness which worried our peoples, presidents, parliaments, and governments." However, we mutually decided in the end that we had to hold talks to radically alter our relations and to put them back on the track of friendship, the Russian president noted. He noted that today's talks proceeded in an atmosphere of great mutual understanding. "I highly assess the agreement that has been signed," Boris Yeltsin noted.

Leonid Kravchuk noted: "We all know today that the Dagomys agreement marks a radical turnabout in relations between the two great states, a turnabout which should take our relations onto a full-blooded, equal, interstate level." In the Ukrainian president's words, both countries will undertake joint actions on all basic internal and international questions. "We will be united and will coordinate our actions," Leonid Kravchuk noted.

Answering correspondents' questions, Leonid Kravchuk declared that Ukraine supports the disarmament agreements signed by the Russian and U.S. Presidents and regards them as a great achievement. Ukraine also supports these steps because it adopted a decision on the complete destruction of nuclear weapons on its territory, the Ukrainian president stressed.

Boris Yeltsin said that the Russian side welcomes this Ukrainian stand with great satisfaction. "It suits us completely," the Russian president declared. He also announced that an understanding had been reached that the two countries' parliaments will accelerate work on ratifying the strategic offensive weapons treaty.

Leonid Kravchuk said that the Dniester region problem was not discussed in detail at today's meeting. "In principle, we were in favor of our two great states not being unconcerned but taking all possible political steps to prevent conflicts on former USSR territory."

The Ukrainian president said that the Russian, Ukrainian, Moldovan, and Romanian presidents will discuss the Dniester region problem in Istanbul on 25 June. "I think that we must find a reasonable solution," he added.

Leonid Kravchuk said that Ukraine has assumed a new stand on the Dniester region: It champions the right of the Dniester region, in accordance with the will of its people, to be an autonomous republic within Moldova. However, he noted that if the question is resolved through the unification of Moldova and Romania, then the people of the Dniester region must be given the right to decide their fate for themselves.

Boris Yeltsin confirmed that a Georgian delegation headed by Eduard Shevardnadze will arrive in Dagomys on 24 June and that talks will be held between the Russian and Georgian delegations with the participation of the leaders of North and South Ossetia. "Blood is being shed in South Ossetia, near our territory, and we cannot remain indifferent," Boris Yeltsin sad.

Speaking on the Black Sea Fleet, Boris Yeltsin said that the sides agreed "to continue talks currently under way, but also made a step forward: The bases where this Fleet is currently deployed will be jointly run and financed." Leonid Kravchuk said that a Russian fleet and a Ukrainian fleet will be set up on the basis of the Black Sea Fleet. He said: "We see this agreement within the CIS framework." As for the national-patriotic, national-communist, extremist forces, the Ukrainian president admitted that they had lately become more active for two reasons: First, the objectively hard conditions of life, upon which these forces feed; and second, we stopped making our views of them known and making requirements of them in accordance with the law. Leonid Kravchuk noted that the statement signed today says that we will act jointly, will defend reforms and democracy, and will rebuff these forces. The presidents of both countries were asked about possible shifts and forward movement within the CIS in connection with the results of the Dagomys meeting. Having noted that the functioning of the Commonwealth and its prospects depend upon the positions of Russia and Ukraine, Leonid Kravchuk stressed: "Ukraine has not been and is not now acting contrary to the attempts to portray it as such, as a destructive force within the CIS." Moreover, he noted that the Commonwealth must be improved further. The Ukrainian president came out in favor of setting up a control commission capable of taking measures on states that fail to implement signed agreements. The Russian president added that this question will be discussed in Moscow on 6 July, when all CIS heads of state assemble.

Answering a question on the Crimea, Boris Yeltsin said that [words indistinct]. Kravchuk noted that the 1990 Treaty, which "clearly and precisely states that Russia and Ukraine have no territorial claims on each other," will be in force until a comprehensive political treaty between the two states is concluded.

Report on Talks Issued

LD2306165792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1614 GMT 23 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Dagomys, 23 Jun—The press service of the presidents of Russia and Ukraine have issued the following report:

"On 23 June Russian-Ukrainian talks were held in Dagomys. They were attended on the Russian side by Russian President Boris Yeltsin; Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet; and Yegor Gaydar, acting chairman of the Russian Federation Government. On the Ukrainian side they were attended by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk; Ivan Plyushch, chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet; and Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitold Fokin.

This was a meeting of two friendly states which are conscious of their high responsibility to their peoples and the world community. Russia and Ukraine reached an agreement to embark on the working out and subsequent signing of a full-scale political agreement which will serve as a legal basis for the development of friendly, equal, and mutually advantageous relations based on partnership. At the conclusion of the talks, an agreement was signed between Ukraine and Russia on the further development of interstate relations. The sides stressed the importance of maintaining and consolidating their common historic, cultural, and spiritual roots and ties.

The participants in the meeting examined a broad range of Russian-Ukrainian relations and agreed to step up their interaction. Readiness was shown for joint efforts and actions to end the interethnic conflicts in regions which affect the interests of both states, based on accepted international legal acts and the practice of settling conflict situations. In the sphere of interethnic relations, Russia and Ukraine agree to mutually defend the interests of Russians, Ukrainians, and citizens of other nationalities in their own countries, proceeding from the accepted norms of the protection of human rights. It is noted that in interethnic relations between Russia and Ukraine there are no grounds for alarm or claims on either side.

Taking into account the interests of their population, Ukraine and Russia agreed to preserve the principle of openness of their state borders, with a gradual introduction of customs controls in line with international standards. The sides stressed that the citizens of both countries will be guaranteed unhindered and visa-free entry to both Russia and Ukraine.

In the military field, the sides reaffirmed their adherence to existing agreements determining the status of the strategic forces of the CIS Joint Armed Forces. Ukraine and Russia agreed that they will hold talks on concluding agreements arising from those accords, as well as the documents adopted in Lisbon, in connection with the ratification of the CIS treaty. They agreed to lead matters to the speediest ratification of the corresponding agreements.

In the sphere of economics and trade, Russia and Ukraine agreed that in mutual transactions they will proceed from world market prices. The principle of Ukraine's transfer to its own currency was discussed during the talks. It was stressed that, if need be, disputed economic issues are to be settled by a relevant interstate commission.

At a time when neocommunists and extremists are stepping up their activities and consolidating their forces, Russia and Ukraine confirmed their resolution to defend democracy and to proceed along the path of fundamental political and economic reforms. It was decided to hold summit meetings on a regular basis and to set up a mechanism for coordinating actions to implement the decisions adopted.

Gaydar Assesses Agreement

LD2406104192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2158 GMT 23 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow, 24 Jun—Yegor Gaydar, acting chairman of the Russian Government, highly assessed the agreement between the Russian Federation and Ukraine on the further development of inter-state relations signed during the Russian-Ukrainian summit held in Dagomys (southern Russia) on 23 June. On arrival in Moscow, Yegor Gaydar told the ITAR-TASS correspondent at the airport that he attaches particular importance to the pledge taken by the sides to settle reciprocal payment obligations and to undertake coordinated actions to reorganize payment and settlement agreements taking into account the bringing into circulation of a Ukrainian national monetary unit.

'New Approach' to Fleet Noted

LD2306194892 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1821 GMT 23 Jun 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Dagomys—A new approach to the Black Sea Fleet problem is being elaborated in Dagomys at the meeting of Ukrainian and Russian presidents.

Ivan Plyushch, chairman of Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, speaking about the Black Sea Fleet, said: The progress attained is in the fact that we agreed unequivocally: It should be approached proceeding from the newly formed realities, that are as follows. Russia possess her own Armed Forces and Ukraine has its Armed Forces. But this does not rule out that joint strategic deterrence forces may be created. As to those which was earlier called united were those of the CIS, and such a state does not exist. This is a qualitatively new approach to the question under consideration.

Further on Fleet Agreement

LD2306155492 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1500 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] At their meeting in Dagomys, the presidents of Russia and Ukraine have agreed on the division of the Black Sea Fleet. REUTER reported the fact quoting representatives of the Ukrainian top leadership. The chief of the Ukrainian National Security Service, Yevgeniy Marchuk, told a REUTER correspondent [that agreement] was reached on the Black Sea Fleet, one of the key disputed issues between Ukraine and Russia. The chairman of the Ukrainian parliament, Ivan Plyushch, added that part of the 380 ships of the Fleet will be divided between the two countries and the rest will remain under joint Russian-Ukrainian strategic command. Besides, President Yeltsin told correspondents that a four-sided meeting to settle the armed conflict in the Transdniester region will be held in Istanbul on Thursday [18 June]. It is to be attended by the leaders of Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, and Romania who will arrive in Turkey for a summit meeting of Black Sea countries.

Ukraine Cuts Oil to Russia in Debt Dispute

LD2306193792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 23 Jun 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Russian "Transneft" company has owed the Ukrainian administration of the "Druzhba" oil pipeline almost 150 million rubles and $5.5 million since the beginning of the year for transporting Russian oil through the territories of Ukraine, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia. As a result, the Ukrainian administration is about to go bankrupt.

Some one in the Ukraine proposed purely and simply closing the oil pipeline to influence the Russian debtor, and on 27 May the operators pressed the red buttons. The problems of mutual computations between Ukraine and Russia would thereby be transferred to Russia's economic relations with Hungary and Czechoslovakia. However, for all that, we should recall that we are no strangers to one another. The Ukrainian administration, which is on the brink of financial collapse, has for all that, rejected such an extreme step. The leadership of the administration is proposing that the Russian partner should wipe out the debt not with rubles, of which are known to be insufficient, but with oil. However, while this compromise option has still not been accepted, today the Ukrainian administration introduced a warning sanction - the amount of Russian oil being pumped for export has been cut by 25 percent.

Official Visits Vladikavkaz on Ossetian Conflict

LD2206144592 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] The NEGA agency reports that (Nachinovskiy), deputy chief of staff of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs, is in Vladikavkaz. The purpose of his visit is to provide practical help to the troops of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs and the North Ossetian Ministry of Internal Affairs in maintaining the state of emergency, as well as to gather objective data on the situation in South Ossetia.

According to a report by the same agency, a group of South Ossetian deputies has decided to appeal to the confederation of mountain peoples of the Caucasus to accelerate the adoption of a decision on the introduction of a limited contingent of troops of the confederation into South Ossetia.

Meanwhile, a detachment of Georgian guards has crossed to the left bank of the River Lyakhvi, seizing a number of villages. The barrage of Tskhinval by all types of weapons is continuing.

MDR Supports Statement on Dniester, S. Ossetia

MK2306203592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Jun 92 p 2

[NG (NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA) report under the "In Brief" rubric: "MDR [Movement for Democratic Reforms] Statement"]

[Text] The Executive Committee of the Movement for Democratic Reforms [MDR] has disseminated a statement in connection with the exacerbation of the conflicts in South Ossetia and the Dniester region. The document's authors supported the Russian Federation Government statement and urged all the opposing sides to show prudence and restraint. MDR spokesmen believe that the leaders of the states concerned must at once sit around the negotiating table and take a step toward preventing bloodshed.

More on Correspondents' Protests on Ossetia

PM2406090192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Jan 92 First Edition p 1

[Aleksandr Linkov report under the general heading "Tskhinval in Ruins"]

[Text] A cable from South Ossetia has arrived at the Russian Supreme Soviet addressed to its chairman, Ruslan Khasbulatov. Its authors—journalists with a number of Russian and Western press services—expressed a sharp protest at statements by certain news agency representatives (including N. Gongadze, Georgian special correspondent for the "Ostankino" television company), who are misinforming readers and providing tendentious coverage of events.

On the basis of the South Ossetia situation, which they have studied, the senders of the cable—KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, and Russo-British Television Company journalists who gather information under fire from Georgian Guard bullets and shells, request all sober-minded people to help end the genocide of the Ossetian minority.

More on Objections of Georgia's UN Memebership

Russian Denial Rejected

LD2306210592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 23 Jun 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpt] Today there was a storm in the mass media, which was reflected in a storm at the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State Council of Georgia. It all referred back to Ostankino Channel One, to our news at 1200 Moscow time.

At 1200 Moscow time my colleague Mikhail Svetlichnyy reported the following: On 22 June, the UN Security Council postponed the examination of Georgia's application for UN membership owing to an objection on the part of Russia. Observers noted that for the first time Russia has made an objection to any of the former republics of the USSR becoming a member of the United Nations. This was the text of the news item on Channel One.

According to reports, when Eduard Shevardnadze learned about this news, he immediately stated that he would not go to the Dagomys meeting. Kozyrev telephoned him. He spoke with the Georgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and specified that this was false information and that today they promised that Ostankino channel one would be disproved. According to reports from Tbilisi, there are some forces here in Moscow who evidently want to make Shevardnadze and Yeltsin fall out, as well as the peoples of the two countries.

It is very flattering for us that they pay so much attention to our channel, but we would like to draw the attention of respected diplomats to the fact that other sources also exist. [passage omitted]

UN Debate 'Overdramatized'

PM2406093592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Maksim Yusin report: "Discussion of Georgian Admission to United Nations Postponed on Russian Initiative"]

[Text] Citing Security Council sources, news agencies have reported from New York that the discussion of Georgia's admission to the United Nations which was to have taken place on 22 June, was postponed on the initiative of the Russian delegation. It is obvious that the reason is the exacerbation of Russian-Georgian relations over the situation in South Ossetia.

However, informed Foreign Ministry officials contacted by us consider that the situation should not be overdramatized. In their words, on 22 June, there was only a preliminary discussion in the corridors and, taking account of the arguments expressed by the Russians, the Georgian delegation agreed not to insist on an official discussion of their candidacy for the next few days.

In all probability the two sides preferred to wait until 24 June, when Yeltsin's Dagomys meeting with Shevardnadze, which should clarify many factors, will take place. If the two countries' leaders manage to reach agreement, Moscow is hardly likely to obstruct Georgia's admission to the United Nations. However, if the Dagomys talks end without result, Andrey Kozyrev will presumably have his work cut out to persuade hard-liners in the Russian leadership, and possibly the president himself, that all-out diplomatic warfare with Georgia is far from the best way to protect our state interests.

Especially since in this instance we risk ending up isolated on the Security Council: None of its members objects to Tbilisi's candidacy. Not to mention the fact that settling scores with Georgia at the United Nations could put other republics of the former Union on their guard. This would hardly be conducive to the success of the upcoming 6 July meeting of CIS leaders.

Officials Arrive in Dagomys for Ossetian Talks

OW2406115592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1129 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the North Ossetian parliament Akhsarbek Galazov, who arrived in Dagomys on Tuesday [23 June] evening told IF [INTERFAX] correspondent Vyacheslav Terekhov that he hoped reason would triumph during the talks. "To begin with, the question of ceasefire in the Tskhinvali region should be raised. He also noted that all of the previous ceasefire agreements were not implemented.

At all appearances," said Galazov, "either the Georgian armed forces are not controlled by the Georgian leadership, or Georgia's statements are mere words." He believes that a third force—Russian or CIS troops—should be sent to the Tskhinvali region to disengage the conflicting sides. If the negotiating parties reject this option during the talks, United Nations' blue helmets should be called in.

Galazov thinks that the question of North and South Ossetia's unification may be raised. He said he is against raising such a question. "There is no basis for this at the moment," he said. "It may be discussed later on, though, when the hot heads cool down," he said.

Shevardnadze Arrives

LD2406120892 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 24 Jun 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] They have just brought to me, here in the studio, a report from the NEGA agency which states that the talks in Dagomys among Russia, Georgia, and South and North Ossetia have started. In connection with the morning events in Tbilisi, Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the State Council of Georgia, arrived for the meeting late, but nevertheless he did arrive. Taking part in the talks on the Russian side will also be Aleksandr Rutskoy, vice president of Russia.

After the talks, at 1800, Shevardnadze and Yeltsin will depart together for Istanbul.

Yeltsin, Moldova's Snegur Unlikely To Meet Soon

LD2306142392 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] In all probability a meeting between the presidents of Russia and Moldova in the near future will not take place. This was stated by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. At the same time, according to Kozyrev, a Russian parliamentary-government delegation has finally been given access to Moldova, and Moldovan-Russian working talks are now taking place. Despite the sharp exacerbation in the situation in the conflict zone, talks between Yeltsin and Snegur are, in principle, possible, if the Moldovan president agrees, Kozyrev believes. This has been a report from the NEGA agency.

Ministry Protests Troop Treatment in Azerbaijan

LD1906171992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1620 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] Moscow, 19 Jun (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian Foreign Ministry has sent a note of protest to the Azerbaijan Foreign Ministry today in connection with a sharp deterioration in the situation of border troops that are under Russian jurisdiction and that are stationed on the territory of Azerbaijan.

The note points out that the border guards and members of their families are being subjected to insults and threats of physical violence. Additionally, weapons and ammunition, vehicles and personal belongings are being taken from the military. The upsurge in unlawful actions has coincided with an increasing number of attempts by Azerbaijan to resubordinate the border troops to its jurisdiction and the stepping up of measures to seize their property and equipment.

The Russian Foreign Ministry has stated that such actions "could lead to further complications with unpredictable consequences." The ministry has demanded from the Azeri side that it "undertake the necessary steps to stop such actions and ensure normal conditions so that the border guards can maintain the guarding of the border and so that the safety of servicemen and members of their families is guaranteed."

Over 300 Officers Transfer to Azerbaijani Army

LD2206185492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1430 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] Over 300 officers of Russian nationality from among the servicemen of the 4th Army have transferred to service in the ranks of the National Army of Azerbaijan. A staff member of the republic's defense minister explained this by the fact that recently some 10 legislative acts have been adopted in republic guaranteeing social protection for servicemen and the members of their families.

Joint U.S. Statement on DPRK Weapons Issued

LD1806202292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1142 GMT 18 Jun 92

["Joint Russian-American Statement on Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons on the Korean Peninsula"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] [No dateline as received]—The Russian Federation and the United States of America, supporting the efforts of the international community in the field of countering the proliferation of nuclear weapons, note the positive changes in the matter of strengthening the nuclear nonproliferation system in Korea. They welcome the joint declaration between the Koreas of 31 December 1991 on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, and call for the full implementation of this agreement, which is a signficant contribution to strengthening peace and security in the region, and also in achieving reconciliation and stability on the Korean peninsula.

The sides welcome the ratification by the DPRK of the control agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] and call on it to cooperate further with the agency for the purpose of placing its nuclear installations under appropriate control. The complete fulfillment by the DPRK of its obligations under the Nonproliferation Treaty and the joint declaration between the Koreas, including IAEA control, alongside reliable and effective reciprocal nuclear inspections would make it possible finally to dispel international concern regarding the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula.

More on Yeltsin's Remarks on Return From U.S.

OW2106141492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1337 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin describes the results of his visit to the USA and Canada as "very and very successful." [sentence as received]

Hopes for a bigger success would be unrealistic, said he at the Vnukovo-2 airport on Saturday [20 June].

One of the fundamental documents he had signed in the USA is, Yeltsin said, the nuclear arms reduction agreement. He noted that none of the signed documents is out of line with Russian or US interests.

The president also described as unjust accusations on part of the opposition which claims that the Washington agreement on a radical cut in the nuclear arms is a "sellout of Russia."

All these documents, in particular the disarmament document, provide a "very good foundation for the stabilization of the situation in the world and for safety or our and American citizens, persuading them that they would not war," said Yeltsin.

Discussing the forthcoming June 23 meeting in Dagomys with Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, Yeltsin expressed hope that the meeting would "remove the most acute of the problems, and lead to the signing of a document." "We must live in peace with Ukraine," said he. "Differences in positions should be discussed in a quiet, businesslike manner.

Asked by IF [INTERFAX], Yeltsin said that he had the situation in Russian under control." "I hope," said he, "that the forthcoming July 7 sitting of the Constitutional Court will pass a just judgment on the Communist Party, and then everything will be clear to everybody. Then we'll have a real confrontation to fight with or the communist opposition, a vestige of the old system, will break apart."

Deputy Minister Comments on U.S. Talks

LD2306113992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0840 GMT 23 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Andrey Surzhanskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 23 Jun—The accords on the further reduction of strategic offensive weapons, reached by the Russian and U.S. presidents during the official visit of Boris Yeltsin to the United States, are in the interests of both countries. Furthermore, their value lies in the fact that neither of the sides gains any advantage. This was stated today in a conversation with an ITAR- TASS correspondent by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Grigoriy Berdennikov. The issue at hand is the three-fold reduction of the Russian and U.S. nuclear arsenals by the year 2003—all in all from 21,000 to 6,000-7,000 warheads.

Commenting on the importance of the document signed in Washington, the Russian diplomat noted that the accords that were reached mean "considerable progress." The extent of the reductions in nuclear weapons is twice as large as those envisaged by the old treaty on the reduction of strategic offensive weapons. Emphasizing the fundamentally new provisions of the Russian-U.S. agreement, he pointed out that it was the first time that limitations on the most powerful component of the U.S. strategic "triad"—naval weapons—had been achieved. According to the deputy minister, it is the first time that a "ceiling" has been introduced for the number of nuclear warheads on ballistic missiles on submarines.

Grigoriy Berdennikov believes that the Russian-U.S. accords fully reflect the new nature of Russian-U.S. cooperation, where the sides no longer regard each other as enemies, and their relations are shifting to a new basis—from rivalry to cooperation. In this connection, the document signed by Boris Yeltsin and George Bush permits the elimination of the burden of confrontation of many years which was mainly determined by the amount of mass destructon weapons, said the Russian diplomat. As to certain pessimistic appraisals that express doubt as to the readiness of Russia for such a step, Grigoriy Berdennikov confirmed once more that all matters had been coordinated with the military leadership of the country and take full account of our possibilities. That is why the extent of and time scales for the reduction of nuclear arsenals determined by the accords are not only substantial but realistic as well.

U.S. Ambassador Comments on Summit Results

LD2306152392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1353 GMT 23 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Skripnikov]

[Text] Moscow June 23 TASS—President Yeltsin emerged on the world scene as a leader of international stature during the Russian-American top-level meeting, U.S. Ambassador to Moscow Robert Strauss said at a news conference devoted to the results of the summit here today. The press of the entire world has learned that he is the leader who is worthy of the great power. This is a very positive factor, Strauss observed.

"The summit raised relations between Russia and the U.S. to a new level which we had never witnessed before. At this new level economic ties between our countries will be significantly expanded," Strauss added.

He said that during one of the talks with Boris Yeltsin in the U.S., they shared the view that once economic activity between Russia and the U.S. is boosted, disputes will inevitably emerge. "But it will be disputes of another nature," Strauss stressed. "There will be the same problems between us as we have with Britons, the French and Japanese. I think it is fine when nations dispute about commercial interests. This means at issue is not war or a threat to international security. A totally different climate is being created," Strauss added.

In Strauss's view, no major difficulties are expected to arise in implementing rapidly the accords reached in Washington, although to be given the full force of the law they require additional measures on the part of the Russian parliament and the American Congress.

Evaluating the general situation in Russia, Strauss said it is more stable today than it was when he arrived in Moscow. He said many of the gloomy forecasts did not come true and he did not also see any threat of a coup. "I know there are many people who criticise the government, but this is natural in conditions of democracy," Strauss said.

Further on Briefing

LD2306230492 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1530 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] A news conference by U.S. Ambassador to Russia Robert Strauss was held in Moscow today. It was devoted to the results of the U.S. visit by Russian President Boris Yeltsin. Our correspondent reports:

[Correspondent] Let's get it straight—it is not often that we journalists are invited to Spasso House, the residence of the U.S. ambassador to Moscow. That was the venue for this conference. Answering questions from media representatives, Robert Strauss did not evade pointed questions and answered the most awkward ones with pleasure.

For example, he said that the United States does not doubt that Boris Yeltsin is a leader on a world scale, but the U.S. media often called him a leader with many question marks. Now, after the visit, the ambassador noted, not just the media, but also ordinary Americans believe that these question marks are unnecessary.

An answer to another question which was no less tricky was given in the same manner. Does the ambassador believe that a repeat of the August coup is possible in Russia?

I have witnessed the change of power in this country, Robert Strauss said. We have seen a new government which was formed peacefully. Gaydar's government does not remain idle. It aims at transferring the economy to the market path of development not in words, but in reality.

Tell me frankly, the ambassador said, when addressing journalists later, in what country in Europe, Asia, or America would a government remain in power after prices rose 18-fold, and your government stayed. This means that people believe in it. As for me, I don't believe in threats of an overthrow. Of course, the ambassador answered, I should not be regarded as a naive person. There have been, are and always will be dissatisfied people everywhere. That is natural. But if you lift (?the Western veil), you will see that the governments of Britain and France are criticized for their policies more severely than your government is criticized by the Russian press.

The journalists did not fail to ask a question regarding—I quote—the alcohol program during the stay of the Russian president in the United States.

During the visit, the ambassador said, I accompanied President Yeltsin in his trip around the United States practically 24 hours a day, and I met him at dinner. Then he flew to Canada, and I returned to Moscow. I can say that this question leads to a rather unpleasant thought, but I can state with full responsibility that the Russian president is unlikely to consume more alcohol than my six-year old grandson.

Well, there were such questions—there is no getting around the fact. Concluding the news conference, the U.S. ambassador to Moscow promised to make his meetings with the Russian press at Spasso House more regular.

Results of Yeltsin's U.S. Trip Viewed

PM2306110792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Jun 92 Morning Edition pp1, 7

[Report by Aleksandr Shalnev: "America After Yeltsin"]

[Text] Washington—Russia and the United States have finally agreed on the fate of their embassies in Washington and Moscow respectively. An agreement was signed back during Boris Yeltsin's visit to the United States but for several days it was kept secret in order, as it now emerges, not to cause premature nervousness in the U.S. Congress, on whom the decision as to whether or not the White House and the Kremlin should reach an agreement or not wholly and fully depends.

The point of the agreement is that the Russian diplomats will now receive the right to move from their luxurious but terribly crowded house on Washington's 16th Street, which used to accommodate the tsar's embassy, to a gigantic edifice of marble resembling the Palace of Congresses located on the capital's highest hill. This building was prepared for occupation several years ago but the story of the bugging devices discovered in [passage indistinct], congress—for a long time decided what should happen to the Moscow Embassy: Whether it should be razed to the ground, leased to someone, whether only the top floors, whether the top secret officers are usually situated, should be stripped and reinstalled... Simplest of all, it seems, was the decision to sue the Soviet Union for $30 million and, of course, the decision that as long as the American diplomats had to huddle together in crowded conditions, Soviet diplomats were doomed to [passage indistinct] wanted to open their own missions in the United States and which laid claim to part of former Soviet property, the problem of the transfer became particularly acute. Now it has been resolved: The Americans have abandoned their lawsuit but have demanded for themselves conditions, privileges, and benefits which, according to the calculations of the State Department itself, are assessed at about $45 million. There is the additional plot of land—with an area of approximately one acre—which will make it possible to joint together the old precinct and the new complex; there are the special lease terms, which which the State Department has called "extremely favorable;" there is the right to construct the new embassy building using only American workers.

Incidentally, to judge by the State Department spokesman's statements, so far the administration is not inclined to destroy the building in which the "bugs" were found. Uses for it [passage indistinct] including purely commercial ones.

I believe that Congress, which is still under the very powerful impression which Yeltsin made on it with his speech, will agree.

That impression will undoubtedly also be a serious factor in the way the Capitol sets about discussing the freedom support bill. But in contrast to the vote on the new embassy building there are still many unclear points here.

Although—and this should be particularly stressed—the situation has become considerably more favorable. And not only because Congress was delighted with Yeltsin. Also because in the past few days what was perhaps the most serious obstacle on the path to the bill's adoption has been successfully removed: The Senate and the House of Representatives have been able to reach a compromise with President Bush and have approved an aid package for those U.S. cities like Los Angeles which have been struck particularly hard by social troubles. If one more compromise—on unemployment benefits—is successfully reached, Congress and the administration will then be able with an almost clear conscience to tell America: "We have made a thorough study of domestic problems, now it is time to study foreign problems."

It is expected that as early as Tuesday the bill on aid for Russia will be submitted for examination by the entire Senate. There should be no special problems with the Senate unless, of course, you count the fact that many senators—including such diverse figures as the Democrat Sam Nunn, chairman of the Armed Services Committee, and Republican Jesse Helms, member of the Foreign Relations Committee—have warned that they intend to "hang" a mass of amendments on the bill. The expected amendments include the following: "No aid as until Russia withdraws its troops from the Baltic states."

In the House of Representatives the situation is more complicated, although here too since Yeltsin's visit the changes of the bill's success have become incomparably greater. But, NEW YORK TIMES diplomatic observer Thomas Friedman notes, "after they had chanted 'Boris! Boris!' many congressmen made it clear that before voting 'for' they would like to take their voters' pulses once more."

The process could drag on and upset the schedule which, as I understand it, the administration has drawn up: Having failed in their attempts to push the bill through Congress for Yeltsin's arrival in the United States the administration has now set itself the task of doing this before the congressmen break for the 4 July vacation, America's national holiday. I should note that the administration has now begun to pressurize the "servant of the people" far more vigorously and toughly than before. According to Secretary of State James Baker "history will judge extremely strictly those who try to block this bill... It is extremely important that Yeltsin, on returning to Moscow, can demonstrate that he has achieved progress." The secretary of state, who spoke on a CNN program on Saturday, also stressed that if the reforms in Russia are not helped and if they collapse, then the United States, which spent trillions of dollars on the cold war, will have to spend further trillions.

The money argument is a strong one but, as a CBS television commentator rightly noted, "it is always hard to prove that there will be benefits, only not right now but later, in the remote future." But now, THE NEW YORK TIMES notes, the United States, "having won the cold war, is receiving not the dividends of peace but a bill." That is the first point. The second is that people on the Capitol cannot fail to see that the IMF is in no hurry at all to give its fullest approval to the Kremlin. The talks which Yegor Gaydar, who accompanied President Yeltsin, has had here with the IMF leadership have produced no special results. Either we consider the IMF's demands to be too tough or else the fund believes our reforms to be too soft, but the situation which has taken shape since the talks is such that, according to the assessments of the local press, Russia and the IMF will hardly reach an agreement which would enable us to receive money from the fund as early as July.

The key problems on which we are so far unable to reach agreement, even though the Washington administration, including President Bush himself, is now putting pressure on the IMF on our behalf, include the problem of a unified monetary policy for the countries of the former Union and the problem of the ruble zone and of ensuring the ruble's stability.

In the assessment of the situation which has taken shape since the Russian president's visit perhaps the strongest factor is the factor of the American prisoners of war and missing Americans. It plays both for and against us. An undoubted plus is that Boris Yeltsin has resolutely demonstrated his desire to be honest and open with the Americans, even on questions of such extraordinary delicacy as the prisoners of war. That has been assessed, and assessed very highly.

The minuses are as follows: Having said that some American prisoners of war were in our Gulag and having hinted that some of them may still be alive, the Russian president willy-nilly assumed a colossal commitment: to find at least one living prisoner. "We ourselves have no evidence on this score," Secretary of State Baker said in the CNN interview. "But if the Russian president himself says so..." If no one is found the president may start to be accused of empty talk and—worse—of unreliability. Frankly, such accusations are already beginning to be heard.

In addition, George Bush is is now in a very awkward situation. Ross Perot, the Texas billionaire who has not yet officially announced that he is running for U.S. president but is already considered as Bush's main rival at the November elections, has spent many years searching all Indochina for American prisoners of war. He believes that he has frequently been impeded in his search by official Washington and in particular by Bush, who held the post of U.S. vice president at the time. Perot's displeasure and even fury at these obstacles are so acute that at one point he engaged in collecting compromising material about Bush who, it is clear from a sensational item in the Sunday issue of THE WASHINGTON POST, he suspected of "weakness, indecisiveness, and even corruption."

The fact that, as Moscow is now saying, that the prisoners of war were moved from Indochina to the Soviet Union may now be seen by Bush's opponents as confirmation of their suspicions with regard to the then vice president who for some reason tried to block the search for the prisoners. It is by no means ruled out that, by displaying openness and honesty, we have created a problem whose consequences are hard even to predict.

Further Reaction to Yeltsin's U.S. Visit

OW2306062592 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1845 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Studio Interview with Andrey Kortunov, chief of a department of the United States of America and Canada Institute, and Vladimir Pozner, an independent journalist, by Petr Orlov; from the "Utro" program—live]

[Text] [Orlov] None of the leaders of the CIS member states, neither Nazarbayev or Kravchuk, was given such a welcome when they visited Washington as the heads of new states on the territory of the former Union. Boris Yeltsin was the first to be afforded this right, to be received on the White House lawn with a ceremonial orchestra and inspection of a guard of honor representing the five branches of the U.S. Army and Air Force. [video shows White House welcoming ceremony for President Yeltsin, then cuts to the studio]

What lies behind this visit, the first official visit of the Russian President to the United States? Today we will discuss this question with Andrey Kortunov, chief of a department of the United States of America and Canada Institute, and Vladimir Pozner, an independent journalist.

So what lies behind Yeltsin's visit? From our view, as we see it, it means the appointment of Gaydar to the post of prime minister— at least for the duration of Yeltsin's absence—as well as some other major steps. What is the most important thing here, in your estimation?

[Kortunov] Well I think that we can talk about two points on the agenda that are evident and one that is concealed. As far as the evident ones go, then of course Yeltsin would like to enlist Bush's support at the forthcoming meeting of the Big Seven in Munich to get the economic aid package from the Western countries, and also to achieve a certain measure of progress in the sphere of arms control.

But I think that the third concealed point on the agenda is also very important for Yeltsin, or more precisely, consolidation of a pro-Russian orientation in U.S. foreign policy. This means securing an attitude in the administration based on the view that despite the existence of 14 other states in place of the former Soviet Union, nevertheless the main partner is Russia and that primary attention should be focused on it.

[Orlov] Vladimir (?Vladimirovich), you were in the United States for six or more months...

[Pozner, interrupting] Eight.

[Orlov] Eight...and you viewed all the developments since the putsch—Gorbachev's (?ouster), Belozerskaya Pushcha, the CIS—from over there. Does Russia really have the right to be considered the, well, first among equals or not?

[Pozner] I think yes. But one must not forget that for a long time the Americans did not succumb to the changes that were taking place in the Soviet Union. For a long time they considered that Gorbachev was simply playing out some comedy. As they put it, he wants us to drop our guard and then hit us.

I would say that falling in love with Gorbachev was a slow process for them. But once they fell in love with him it is now very difficult for them to fall in love with somebody else. Now in this sense they secretly still prefer Gorbachev to Yeltsin. This can be seen in everything, even during Gorbachev's recent unofficial visit there was a much greater emotional hullabaloo than there is now when Yeltsin is arriving, although generally the two cannot be compared.

So, there are some psychological points here. Initially Yeltsin was seen as a Russian bear, a man who possibly drank too much or maybe not. Anyway, he did not have the charisma, and generally he was more like the Russian who they depicted at one time as a burly big-fisted man without much subtlety. This factor also plays a role in talks, and generally for America, more than for possibly any other country, image is of great significance.

I would like to say another thing. Overall it is difficult for Yeltsin. He needs to play a double role. On the one hand he has to prove here, at home, that he really has the interests of Russia at heart, while over there he has to prove that he favors reforms that appear to favor them.

[Orlov] You mean the Americans?

[Pozner] Yes, the Americans, that he is moving toward capitalism. Now not everybody's attitude to this is simple here.

[Orlov] Oh yes, we can see this from our windows [referring to demonstration outside Ostankino studios].

[Pozner] Yes, we can see this. Although they sometimes have no idea what they are talking about, nevertheless this is so. So his role is extremely difficult.

[Orlov] Now all of Yeltsin's latest moves, the new members of cabinet on the one hand and Gaydar, who has been left to look after the economy— with the obvious aim of keeping him in this position as head of government—on the other, Andrey Vladimirovich, what do you think has a greater influence here on the Americans, as a symbol or a mark of Russian internal policies?

[Kortunov] You know I think everything depends specifically on who you are talking to. If you talk about professionals, about Sovietologists, or about experts, well during the past three or four months all of them have warned: Yeltsin will not be able to continue the reforms; he will have to make compromises; he will retreat; he will make concessions to the military-industrial complex. Now, when a whole series of appointments has been made in the government, they are attempting to interpret this as an outcome of Yeltsin's weakness.

On the other hand for most ordinary Americans the appointment of Gaydar to the most important position in the state is of course more important than the rearrangements at lower levels of executive power. So, from a tactical point of view, I think that this decision was calculated very correctly.

[Orlov] Now another question, picking up on something you said about ordinary Americans. It seems to me that to a great extent this visit is occurring as follows: The two presidents are standing back to back and facing their people—that is what you have said. For Bush the forthcoming elections are far more important, while for Yeltsin what is happening in his country during his absence and when he returns is far more important. Now in reality, do such issues as offensive arms reductions or that argument between Baker and Kozyrev in London over the thousands of warheads, have any real significance? I mean the nuclear issues? [Kortunov and Pozner both make gestures giving the floor to the other]

[Pozner, laughs] We wanted to answer in chorus. I think so, yes, they are significant, in the long run. Of course it is important how many warheads will remain eventually and naturally it is important to decrease their levels. I am in complete agreement with you that today—although we may not even have noticed it, but in actual fact today—Bush is struggling for survival.

Just a year ago, according to the polls, after the spectacular and brilliant victory in the gulf, he was the most popular U.S. President in history. Yet today he is a man struggling to win the elections in November. He is even threatened not so much by the representative of the other party, the Democratic Governor of the State of Arkansas Clinton, but he is threatened by Perot, a heretofore almost unknown multimillionaire, if I may say so. It seems this is a greater concern for Bush. Yeltsin too is struggling for survival.

[Orlov, interrupting] Yes his rating—after he was the most popular, after he won his Persian Gulf victory here in Moscow...

[Pozner, interrupting] Yes, but his rating did not fall as much as Bush's. After all his rating remains relatively high so far. But since extremely hard times lie ahead of us here he needs some kind of accomplishment, some specific result. In this sense I think that his meeting with Bush is more important for him than for Bush.

[Orlov] Do you not feel that we generally do not need nuclear arms reductions, since as soon as we sign a nuclear arms reduction agreement, the way Gorbachev did, we immediately incur enormous financial expenditures and a mass of social problems in areas where these weapons are produced. What can we do with the steel that we are exploding? Besides many say we are doing this unnecessarily. Andrey Vladimirovich, do you not think that there is a contradiction here between our domestic and foreign policies?

[Kortunov] Of course arms reductions must be carried out wisely and it is foolish to accept responsibilities that we can never fulfill. We must take into consideration the technical difficulties and financial difficulties that will accompany the process of disarmament. But on the other hand, if we want to join the international community, if we are counting on considerable economic assistance, if we talk about confidence, then obviously we cannot achieve it without significantly decreasing our strategic arsenal.

It is another matter that apparently the stages of reduction must be thought out by us very precisely. We should strive for coordinated reductions, and I think that we need to reassess our strategic doctrine anew, insofar as presently, at least on the surface, we unfortunately cannot see any integral or finished strategic doctrine.

[Orlov] And one last question. I would like you to outline your personal feeling: What, in your view would you consider to be a success for Yeltsin's visit? What would he have to bring back in his bag, his suitcase, his briefcase, in his baggage that would signify that his visit to Washington was a success?

[Pozner] Well, once again, from whose point of view?

[Orlov] From ours, from our point of view.

[Pozner] I think here it would need to be an absolutely firm guarantee of economic assistance. This is obvious to me. Besides without any apparent sell off. In other words, if we are talking about the $24 billion that is supposed to come from the Big Seven—and only a part of it from the United States—it would need to be clear that as a result of this visit we will get this money and that essentially nothing will be sold or given away in exchange, that there was no need to grovel, that this was simply...[changes thought] If you like I will give you a comparison concerning America.

During the war the Americans sent us socks, old sweaters, ammunition, everything we needed, and people here were not ashamed to get it, because people were engaged in a most important task—they were fighting fascism. And on the American side this was considered a token of gratitude for what we were doing. Now if we accept this money as their token of gratitude for the fact that this country has taken the road of democracy, then this becomes completely different money and the attitude toward it is different. If he can come home with this, then this will be an enormous success. Whether he succeeds or not is another question.

[Orlov] Andrey Vladimirovich, your point of view?

[Kortunov] I agree with this. I would simply like to add that from my point of view it is very important for Yeltsin to prove in America that the period of wasteful destruction in our country has ended and that we have seriously begun the task of state construction, that Russia is becoming focused, that Russia has found its path, and that Russia can talk with the leading power of the Western world as an equal.

[Orlov] I will violate a principle and will ask the last question, the very last question, because there is an idea I find truly interesting. In order for Nazarbayev to get support in the United States he had to give up nuclear weapons. That is what you spoke about, he had to give up something in exchange for aid. But what does Yeltsin have to give up? What else must he give up?

[Pozner] In my view, nothing needs to be given away. I think it is very important to make it clearly understood that despite the fact that we have enormous difficulties, this country remains a great power and it must be addressed as an equal. What is being done here, in terms of movement along the path of reforms, is what everybody needs, not just the people in Russia, but everybody. And this is the basis for talks. Nothing needs to be given away.

[Kortunov] I think this is right. In order for Russia to be respected it must demonstrate that it has its own interests and that it is prepared to defend them even when these interests do not coincide with the Americans, with those of the Americans.

[Orlov] Andrey Kortunov and Vladimir Pozner in our studio in connection with the fact that Boris Yeltsin is holding his first official visit to Washington. It seems that today and tomorrow will be the major decisive days of this visit.

Further on Delegation's Search of U.S. POW's

PM2306085792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Valeriy Rudnev article: "Special International Trip to Secret Colony: Parliamentarians Seeking American Prisoners of War"]

[Text] The members of the Russian-U.S. mixed parliamentary commission investigating the case of U.S. POW's left Moscow for Pechora at 0900 hours 18 June by special flight. They were accompanied to Pechora penal colony PL-350 by representatives of the Russian president's apparatus and the Russian Foreign and Interior Ministries and the Security Ministry. The delegation's mission is to check information on the possible presence of U.S. POW's in the camp.

Approximately a year ago the subject of U.S. POW's on Russian soil moved from the realms of diplomatic relations to the pages of newspapers and magazines and was aired on radio and television. Various names, details, times, and camp numbers were mentioned. But so far not one journalistic investigation has met with success. Some believe that nothing has been found because there are no U.S. POW's in Russia. Others, conversely, are convinced that they are here but that the special services are carefully concealing their whereabouts.

Nor was any light shed on the matter by Russian President Boris Yeltsin's recent letter to the U.S. Congress, which was widely cited in the mass media. It revealed that U.S. prisoners had been held in Soviet jails, psychiatric hospitals, and camps—both men captured during World War II and others who wound up there during the cold war. The prisoners included 12 crew members from nine U.S. reconnaissance planes shot down over Soviet territory in the fifties. By 1 August 1953, commentators note, citing B. Yeltsin, there were at least eight Americans in jails and camps and another four in special pyschiatric institutions.

However, B. Yeltsin's speech to the U.S. Senate changed the emphasis in the discussion. The Russian president said, rather hypothetically, that if Americans were or are being kept prisoner they should be returned home. General Dmitriy Volkogonov, cochairman of the Russian-U.S. mixed parliamentary commission and adviser to the Russian president, was more categorical in a Soviet TV interview 17 June. Volkogonov believes that there are no U.S. POW's in Russian colonies—at least, not any longer.

Nevertheless, the special delegation has gone to the PL-350 strict regime colony in Pechora where, according to one source, a Soviet citizen by the name of David Markin, born in 1925, is being kept and who knows the specific whereabouts of the U.S. POW's. According to other sources Markin (Martin) himself is a U.S. naval airman, who was born in 1942 and comes from Orlando, Florida, and was captured by Soviet special services during the Vietnam war (incidentally, this story was quickly repudiated by the Vietnamese side).

We asked an official and a private investigator to comment on this report.

Aleksandr Strelkov, chief of the Main Administration of Forestry Labor Institutions:

Colony PL-350 is under my command. We checked the lists and archives not just there but also at all the similar institutions of our 13 administrations and talked with guards, including those who had retired. We are convinced that no U.S. prisoners are or were ever kept in our colonies.

Boris Yuzhin, codirector of the "ARK" [expansion unknown] project:

Our public organization has been working for a long time to try to find the U.S. POW's in Russia. We have found one—in a psychiatric hospital. I am convinced that there are others. But the Russian authorities are keeping all this in the utmost secrecy. I think that we will manage to uncover this secret.

Documents on POW's in Tambov Oblast Revealed

LD2106125292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0950 GMT 21 Jun 92

[By Aleksandr Russkiy, KRIM-PRESS and TTASS]

[Text] Tambov, 21 Jun—Secret archive documents on foreigners-POWs, including Americans, have been revealed to journalists by the Information Center of the Tambov Oblast Internal Affairs Directorate (Central Russia). The journalists were given a chance to view one of the top secret documents dated 1 May 1945 which shows that French, Luxembourg, American, and British nationals and natives of Alsace, all in all 2,500 people, were kept in a number of POW camps situated in the Tambov Oblast.

"This document has been supplemented by testimonies of local inhabitants who were themselves former inmates of these camps. According to them, in addition to POW soldiers of Hitler's army, Americans were also held there, said Vladimir Penkov, the head of a department of the oblast administration. One can only presume that these were POWs from Nazi camps which had been liberated by the Soviet forces and then transferred to these camps. How many of them remain buried in this land? This is what specialists will have to find out. They will help to fulfill the promise given by Russian President Boris Yelstin in the United States to return every American detained in our country to his family." Even if this is only the remains or information about the last years of a person's life.

Impact of Yeltsin's POW Statement Assessed

PM2406120192 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 23 Jun 92 p 3

[Observer A. Vasilyev article: "Let Someone Be Found, Please God... How Justified Is Boris Yeltsin's Statement?"]

[Text] The results of Boris Yeltsin's official visit to the United States can be analyzed from different points of view: The economic—will they give us money or not; the military-strategic—was it right to give up nuclear parity with the United States; the political—will the 11 ovations at the U.S. Congress be translated into understanding by Russia's parliament? There is yet another point of view...

Boris Nikolayevich declared that there may be U.S. servicemen languishing in Russia's concentration camps to this day. Someone immediately sent a Russian-U.S. commission off to Pechora. CNN provided live coverage of the trip for the whole world: Happy faces in the aircraft on the way there, dispirited on the way back—they found nothing.

Relatives of MIA's in Vietnam gathered at Arlington Cemetery near Washington on Sunday: Flowers, tears, lit candles, kissing the names of fathers and husbands engraved on the black marble. Psychological effect: Many of them now think that their fathers and husbands are inside the GULAG. Once again, CNN shows a tearful girl to the whole world. She says: Let someone be found, please God, but if Yeltsin made his statement about POW's only in order to boost his own popularity, then he... And so on.

There are two alternative scenarios: Either Yeltsin's aides have no idea at all of politics and are incapable of forecasting the development of events even a single move ahead, or the president simply does not heed their advice.

U.S. President George Bush also found himself in an awkward position. It appears that, for decades on end, official Washington had kept silent about the possibility of Americans being kept in Soviet camps. In other words, Boris Yeltsin's gesture of generosity has put his counterpart, who was CIA director in the past and is now fighting for reelection to the White House, on the wrong foot. Bush's rival Ross Perot intends to take advantage of Yeltsin's "gift." George Bush now has only one way out: To prove that the Russian president's statement is completely groundless. This will be easy to do.

One last point: Let us assume that U.S. POW's are actually found. People in the United States would then ask: Did Boris Yeltsin really find this out just a day prior to his official visit? After all, the Russians' desire to time the Americans' release to coincide with Boris Nikolayevich's trip abroad would have meant the former GI's spending extra time in the GULAG. Once again, B. Yeltsin would not have been forgiven for this, bearing in mind that back in Soviet times hydroelectric power stations used to be commissioned and reports of unprecedented corn harvest used to be released to coincide with memorable occasions.

MIA Announcement Timing Said Not Coincidental

PM2206122792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 7

[Aleksandr Shalnev report: "The Kremlin Has Officially Admitted That There Were American Prisoners of War in Soviet Prisons"]

[Text] Washington—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has sent a letter to U.S. Congress in which he admitted that there were American prisoners in Soviet prisons, psychiatric hospitals, and camps—some of them captured back in the years of World War II, some locked up during the cold war. The captives included 12 crew members from the nine American fighter planes that were shot down over Soviet territory in the 1950's. The fate of these captives is unknown; it is being investigated, the letter says.

The Russian president's letter, handed in to Capitol Hill last week by General Dmitriy Volkogonov, was published by a special Senate committee set up to investigate the fate of these MIA's.

Noting that his letter sets out the "preliminary results" of this investigation being carried out in Russia, Boris Yeltsin stated: The assurances given by the former Soviet leadership, claiming that the problem of missing Americans did not exist as far as the Soviet Union was concerned, were lies.

Unfortunately, the excerpts from the letter had to be translated twice, since neither Volkogonov nor any one else deemed it necessary either to familiarize the Russian journalists in America with the content of the truly sensational letter, or even to warn them that such a letter had been handed over and would now be made public by Congress.

The letter makes clear that during World War II a total of 716 American servicemen were interned, the overwhelming majority crews of bombers which made forced landings in our country. "The Stalin government had double standards toward the Americans: Some were immediately released and handed over to the American side with honor, others were kept in isolation for a year or more." In the end, all the Americans were evidently released.

As for the crew members of reconnaissance aircraft that were shot down, in his letter Yeltsin refers to figures from 1 August 1953: There were eight Americans, he writes, in prisons and camps and another four in psychiatric hospitals.

The facts that the Russian president has reported not only expose the former Soviet leadership as liars, but also place successive American administrations in a very awkward position: Not one of them ever publicly admitted that any U.S. military aircraft were lost in the 1950's over USSR territory. Since the Yeltsin letter was sent the Pentagon has limited itself to a short reference to the fact that "the U.S. Government knew about the losses."

As THE NEW YORK TIMES recalls, during those years Moscow frequently accused the United States of violating Soviet airspace with spy planes. Two such violations were given a great deal of publicity—the destruction of a C-130 over Armenia in 1958, and the shooting down in 1960 of the U-2 piloted by Francis Gary Powers. In the first instance, the newspaper continues, Moscow, having given the Americans the bodies of the six people who died, denied that there were another 11 missing.

Yeltsin's letter was received with gratitude both on Capitol Hill and by the Administration itself. President Bush said cordial things about the Russian president in this connection.

I would like to note the following: You can scarcely consider it coincidental that the sensational letter was prepared and handed over to Washington on the eve of the Russian-American summit meeting, a meeting on which the Kremlin, and Yeltsin personally, is undoubtedly pinning great expectations and hopes and which will to a certain extent determine the way America reacts to our wishes for aid and assistance. It is very hard to believe that just a few days before the summit we came across in our archives exactly what we had been looking for and exactly what was of tremendous interest to the Americans.

And second: No sooner had reports of the news conference in the Capitol—where Yeltsin's letter was announced—appeared in the local press than I started receiving telephone calls from the Association of Families of the Casualties of KAL-007, the Korean aircraft shot down over Sakhalin on the night of 1 September 1983. If the Kremlin had enough courage to tell the truth about the events of the 1950's, they said, then surely we have a right to expect that the truth will finally be told about the tragedy over Sakhalin, and that we will finally know the answer to the question that worries us most of all—where are the bodies of the passengers and crew of KAL-007?

Knowing how extensive and active the association's contacts with the White House and State Department are, I can say with certainty that Boris Yeltsin will definitely be asked this question at his meetings in Washington —if not by Bush himself, then by one of his closest advisers, and the question will be put to him on the expectation that Moscow will finally provide an answer.

Further Reportage on Joint U.S. Banking Forum

LD2206130192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2110 GMT 19 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Kolesnichenko]

[Text] New York, 20 Jun (TASS)—The "Russian-American Banking Forum" is the name given to a new joint initiative between Russia and the United States, aimed at creating a modern banking and financial infrastructure in Russia. A news conference held here on Friday [19 June] heard that during Russian President Boris Yeltsin's official visit to the United States the two sides discussed the possibilty of forming such a mechanism to provide technical assistance in implementing reform of the banking system in Russia. The primary sponsor of the program is the U.S. Federal Reserve system, which plays the part of a central bank.

Gerald Corrigan, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and Yuliy Vorontsov, the president's adviser on international affairs and Russia's permanent UN representative, are cochairmen of the organization. The first meeting of the "Russian-American Banking Forum" is to be held in Moscow 25-26 June. It will determine the main areas of work for specialists in the near future and discuss an action program now being devised by American and Russian experts. Advisers to the organization include such prominent and influential U.S. economists, financial, and political experts as John Opel, chairman of IBM's executive committee, multimillionaire David Rockefeller, the former chairman of Chase-Manhattan Bank, former U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, former U.S. deputy secretary of state John Whitehead and others. The members of the Russian expert group will be annouced in Moscow at a later date.

Addressing journalists, Yuriy Skokov, secretary of the Russian Federation Security Council, said "Russia is presently engaged on colossal reforms of its political nd economic system." As a member of the Rusian delegation, he was in Washington holding talks with representatives of the U.S. Administration on this matter. "Although the political system has been practically reformed and there can be no question of a return to the past, where reform of the economic system is concerned this is only at the initial stage. And on its success will now depend the democratic future of our state. U.S. participation in setting up a banking infrastructure in Russia would make a signficant contribution to the general process of instituting market relations. The Russian leadership considers that the work done by the Russian-American Banking Forum will assist the development of joint business, help attract American capital to Russia, and enable the country to launch itself on the world market." [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Relations

PM2206113392 Madrid DIARIO 16 in Spanish 14 Jun 92 p 14

[Interview with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev by O. Dmitriyeva in Moscow; date not given]

[Text] [Dmitriyeva] Andrey Vladimirovich, how do you explain Russia's 180-degree turn with respect to Serbia? If my memory serves me right, your recent visit to Yugoslavia took place under the watchword: "We are friends and will be so for ever." However, they now almost regard you people as traitors and staunch supporters of the United States.

[Kozyrev] We have made no turn; if anybody has done that, it is in fact the United States. First, it persisted in not recognizing the obvious process of Yugoslavia's disintegration (I do not rule out the possibility that that delay in recognizing the republics was a trap set for the Soviet Union); next, it suddenly started to run to catch the train it was missing, and the impression it gives is that it punished the Serbs through that very delay on its part.

The process taking place in Yugoslavia seemed clearer to us in Russia than to the West, since we found ourselves in danger of catching the same disease. The United States was clinging to an old idea, while the Europeans and ourselves realized that the ensuing delay in recognizing the Yugoslav republics would promote a political and juridical vacuum.

The Americans proposed Yugoslavia's expulsion from all international organizations. We were opposed. We are opposed to Yugoslavia's disintegration, but we are also opposed to keeping it united through coercion. That is why we blocked sanctions against Yugoslavia in the CSCE. We only accepted the "consensus minus one" formula proposed by that forum, which stipulates that a regular member, and not one which has been expelled, is deprived of the right of veto only on matters concerning itself. We insisted on that, despite having to face an outcry and recriminations against us in the CSCE.

I do not know why, but the press presented Russia's stance in the crudest form—as unqualified support for Serbia at any price. But this is an absurd idea. Like any normal state, we cannot have unconditional friends capable of drawing us through their recklessness into confrontation with the entire world. I took an unprecedented step toward Yugoslavia in going there. We established good relations with all the republics, including Serbia, but strongly advised them to stop the bloodshed immediately. However, our advice was ignored. To continue to support Serbia in such a situation would have meant falling out with all the other Slavs in the Balkans and staining ourselves indirectly, if you will, with the bloodshed in Yugoslavia. It would also have meant great Russia's tilting the balance in favor of the proponents of force, in favor of the party of war. It would have been an absurd and one-sided approach.

There are times when friendship in fact means telling somebody the truth to his face, but the matter does not end there. After voting in favor of sanctions, we are continuing to work in close contact with the Serbian leadership, picking up and bringing to light any positive change that occurs, and changes of that kind are certainly not lacking.

I have the impression that our support for sanctions proved a shock to the Serbs....

[Dmitriyeva] The TANJUG office in Moscow stated that there was a direct connection between our "backward step" and Russia's request to the West that very day for a five-year moratorium on repayment of our multibillion dollar foreign debt....

[Kozyrev] There is no connection at all. Unfortunately, we still do not have in the government the kind of coordination which enables us to link one political step to another. In our country, everybody naively believes that the Foreign Ministry's activity is very precisely attuned to the overall political line. I am very sorry, but for the present this is not the case.

[Dmitriyeva] It would be interesting to ascertain how negotiations are conducted on this or that international problem when these have not been analyzed by the Congress or ratified by the Supreme Soviet. For instance, when you meet with the Japanese and conduct negotiations with them on the problem of the southern Kuril islands, on whose behalf are you acting?

[Kozyrev] On behalf of the former Soviet Union's inflexible stance: The islands are ours, period. Nobody has given us a different stance, and the ministry does not make fundamental foreign policy decisions on its own account. Thank God, the days when agencies dictated the stance to be adopted have passed into oblivion.

It is another matter that neither the Congress nor the Supreme Soviet has informed me of a new approach to the problem, so that I am not empowered to hold negotiations on those islands.

Last March, the Japanese side was the first to opt for a compromise approach by deciding to demand the return of just two islands and start negotiations on the others later.

For my part, what compromise can I offer them? None. Therefore there are no negotiations on this problem at the diplomatic level. I sit down and very politely ask the Japanese questions to see what is new. Viewing the matter from my crude, inflexible stance, what does it matter to me how many islands they demand—two or four.... What an absurd situation!

More than once I have approached the Supreme Soviet, asking that hearings be held in camera on the southern Kurils issue. In camera precisely so that none of us would score propaganda points by displaying his patriotism, although this is a matter not of ideology but of our national interests. Well, nobody concerns himself with our national interests. To be sure, the president has given me no new instructions on the matter, either.

[Dmitriyeva] So what will Yeltsin be taking to Japan in September, since he is not "authorized" either? He will act on his own behalf, will he not?

[Kozyrev] I do not know....

Shaposhnikov on Russian Withdrawal From Kurils

OW2106120992 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 21 Jun 92

[From the "NHK News" program]

[Text] Marshal Shaposhnikov, supreme commander of the CIS forces, has granted an interview to NHK.

Touching on the issue of Russian troop withdrawal from the Northern Territories, the marshal strongly indicated that it could not be carried out as soon as President Boris Yeltsin has promised. In the interview, Marshal Shaposhnikov noted a promise by President Yeltsin, made last May, that the majority of the Russian troops would be withdrawn in one or two years. He stated that the stationing of troops would not constitute an obstacle to the settlement of the issue pending between Russia and Japan. He said:

[Begin recording] I do not think that we are so weak and puny or that we have exhausted our potential to such an extent that we should start trading our land for some kind of temporary successes.

What statements we have heard from the Japanese! They have said, for example: We will lock up the Soviet Union's Pacific Fleet in the Sea of Okhotsk!

As long as such talk is heard from Japan, we will come to no understanding whatsoever on any issue. [end recording]

These remarks from Marshal Shaposhnikov indicate that from the army's perspective, there is a strong possibility that it will be impossible to implement the plan for withdrawing a substantial portion of the troops from the Northern Territories before the deadline of one or two years is reached, as set out in the promise President Yeltsin made to Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe during the latter's visit to Moscow in May.

Moreover, Marshal Shaposhnikov mentioned that, in opposition to the Japanese-launched campaign for the return of the Northern Territories, letters threatening to harm Japanese residing in Russia have been received at the Japanese Embassy in Moscow. He stated that strong opposition to the return exists not only among members of the armed forces, but also among the general public. He noted that the two nations would return once again to the days of the cold war if they should find themselves engaged in a dispute over the issue, exchanging remarks like: the territories belong to us; the territories should be returned; or, they will not be returned.

Foreign Ministry on Japanese UN Position

LD1906115992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1003 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] Moscow June 19 TASS—Russia views the Law "On Promoting UN Peacekeeping Operations" adopted by the Japanese parliament in the context of practical steps of Tokyo aimed at a better use of the potential of the United Nations in supporting international peace and stability and solving regional conflicts, according to a statement of the Russian Foreign Ministry representative.

The issue of concrete forms of promoting the UN peacekeeping efforts by Japan is a question fully referring to the competence of the parliament and government of that country, the statement said. Taking into consideration the statement of Japanese leaders that the implemenation of the law will allow Japan to make an active contribution to strengthening international peace and security and will not mean use of military force or the threat of its use, Russia hopes that the concern voiced by a number of states, which fear that the adopted law may trigger a revival of Japanese militarism, is ungrounded.

Burbulis Meets With Japanese Businessmen

OW1906172992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1702 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin from "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian President's State Secretary Gennadiy Burbulis has declared today, Friday [19 June], at his Kremlin meeting with Japanese businessmen that Boris Yeltsin's visit to Tokio in September "should be rid of diplomatic wordiness since the President's is an open and pragmatic kind of diplomacy". Members of the delegation expressed readiness by Japanese businessmen and public at large to set up under the ruling Liberal-Democratic Party a non-governmental committee to prepare welcome for the Russian President and mount a propaganda campaign to boost his popularity.

Gennadiy Burbulis promised "utmost support" for those plans and remarked that such a programme "would avoid Soviet-like ideological approaches" while concentrating on the essence of the event. He told the delegation that he is heading a governmenttal commission preparing Boris Yeltsin's visit which includes the leaders of the Russian Federation's Far East regions as well as government officials. Shortly Vice-Premier Mikhail Poltaranin will depart for Tokyo to help prepare the visit.

The Japanese businessmen assessed Boris Yeltsin's visit to the United States as "a success of global importance".

On the problem of "northern territories" the members of the delegation admitted that most Japanese people see the impossibility of "immediate return of those islands". In keeping with Boris Yeltsin's formula of solving the territorial dispute on the basis of law and historic justice they explained that the Japanese side understood law in that case as the bilateral treaty of 1956 on returning the Kuril islands, and historic justice as the recognition of the fact that it is unfair at this late date to still classify participants of the 2nd World War into victors and the vanquished. The business circles in Japan would very much welcome a statement of such a nature by the Russian leader during his visit, let it be "without any specifics".

Gennadiy Burbulis expressed the wish of Russia's leadership to resolve the disputes and stressed that the solution would largely depend on the success of reforms in the republic. He said Russia was considering ways of cooperating with Japan "in the framework of overall economic reform. He is convinced that "Japan's active and advanced business should have its share in Russia for this is advantageous for both countries". But he urged businessmen not to tarry or "they might be late". While ruling out any begging by Russia, he remarked, "We are ready to see Japanese business as a participant of reforms in Russia".

With all that, Gennadiy Burbulis emphasized that in their contacts Russia and Japan should keep all the best features of what was reached back at the time of the USSR.

Comments on Yeltsin's Visit

OW1906172192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1328 GMT 19 Jun 92

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian president's State Secretary Gennadiy Burbulis said on Thursday [18 June] during his meeting with Japanese business people that Boris Yeltsin's visit to Tokyo must be rid of diplomatic turgidness because the Russian president symbolized an open and pragmatic diplomacy. He also said that Vice-Premier Mikhail Poltoranin will fly to Tokyo soon to prepare the visit.

Prominent public figure and head of the Innnovation Fund Kozi Sugimori touched upon the problem of northern territories. He said that most of the Japanese citizens are aware that the islands cannot be returned to Japan immediately.

Welcoming Yeltsin's belief that the territorial dispute should be settled on the basis of law and historical justice, Sugimori said that in the current setting the Japanese side understands "law" as the confirmation by Russia of the 1956 Soviet-Japanese Declaration and "historical justice" as the recognition of the fact that after so many years it is improper to divide the participants in World War II into the winners and losers. Sugimori gave to understand that Japan's business quarters would expect the Russian president to make this kind of statement, "without any specific details".

Burbulis stated that the Russian leadership was willing to settle the disputable issues, which, he said, will largely depend on the success of the reforms in Russia.

Japanese Diplomats Deny Invitation to Dudayev

OW1906175092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1329 GMT 19 Jun 92

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" (DP) feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] An executive of the Japanese embassy in Moscow has denied reports that the chief of the Japanese emperor's special guard has sent an invitation to visit Tokyo to the Chechen president.

The Japanese diplomat told DP [Diplomatic Panorama] that Japan did not recognize Chechniya. Therefore, there can be no talk about extending any official invitation to the Chechen president, he said.

Besides that, the Japanese embassy has no information pointing to the fact that Groznyy was visited by the chief of the Japanese emperor's special guard or that an invitation was extended to Dudayev. This is impossible technically, because according to the rules, such invitations are extended through diplomatic channels, said the Japanese diplomat.

Anonymous Letter Prompts Japanese Fears

PM2206143592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 5

[ITAR-TASS report: "Japanese Embassy Expecting Siege"]

[Text] The Japanese Embassy in Moscow is expecting the worst. According to the KYODO News Agency, the embassy does not rule out the possibility of hostile actions in the very near future both against staffers of the diplomatic mission itself and against other Japanese citizens in Russia.

These fears have been prompted by a recent anonymous letter containing threats, in which the authors demanded that the embassy cease forthwith distributing brochures in Russian setting out the history of the territorial problem in bilateral relations and Tokyo's position. Although the authors of the message remain unknown, the Japanese diplomatic mission has asked the Russian authorities to begin an investigation to prevent possible unpleasant consequences.

At the end of April this year the Japanese Foreign Ministry prepared 60,000 copies of the special brochure in Russian, setting out in popular language the reasons why Tokyo is trying to recover the southern Kurils, known here as the "Northern Territories."

The decision to publish and distribute the brochure, as the Japanese press noted earlier, was made in view of the fact that the Russian side at the talks invariably stresses the need to take Russian public opinion into account in resolving the territorial problem. In Tokyo's opinion, the publication of this brochure will promote a better understanding of the question among Russian citizens and thereby have a certain influence on their attitude.

Federation Affairs

Yeltsin Decree To Protect Monetary System

PM2306153892 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Jun 92 First Edition p 1

["Decree of the President of the Russian Federation on Measures To Protect the Russian Federation Monetary System," No. 626, signed by Russian President B. Yeltsin and dated 21 June 1992]

[Text] With a view to protecting the monetary unit of the Russian Federation—the ruble; establishing control of the Russian Federation over the money supply within its borders; and balancing Russia's accounts with other states using the ruble as a means of payment, I resolve:

1. That settlements for reciprocal deliveries of goods between Russia and other states using the ruble as their means of payment be carried out in accordance with international commercial and banking practice, which ensures the balancing of accounts and rules out the possibility of automatic credit for deliveries to the detriment of the economic interests of the states which are trading partners.

2. That the Central Bank of the Russian Federation (Bank of Russia) be authorized to adopt the necessary measures to transfer interbank settlements with states using the ruble as the means of payment to principals ensuring the protection of the Russian Federation's monetary system.

3. That within two months the Russian Federation Government, in conjunction with the Bank of Russia, hold talks on the implementation of economic policy coordination measures with states wishing to retain the monetary unit of the Russian Federation—the ruble—as the legitimate means of payment on their territory.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B.Yeltsin
Moscow, Kremlin 21 June 1992
No. 626

Automatic Circulation System Formed in Moscow

OW1906085992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0745 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Moscow authorities went to work on creating a single system of automatic money circulation in the capital. Such systems have been used abroad for more than 20 years in the form of plastic computer cards. This simple and convenient method will solve the problem of cash shortages and rid stores of unnecessary transactions.

Specialists say the system will save one fifth of each ruble, the cost of currency circulation in Moscow. The first step to creating the system will be the issuance of debit computer cards which will completely replace savings books.

Decree on Cossack Rehabilitation Issued

PM2406081192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Jun 92 First Edition p 4

[Decree No. 632 of the Russian Federation President "On Measures To Implement the Russian Federation Law 'On the Rehabilitation of Repressed Peoples' in Relation to the Cossacks," dated Moscow, 15 June 1992 and signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin]

[Text] In order to restore historical justice to the Cossacks and rehabilitate them as an historically developed cultural and ethnic community of people while also complying with an appeal by representatives of the Cossack revival movement and using the Russian Federation Law of 26 April 1991 "On the Rehabilitation of Repressed Peoples" as a basis, I resolve:

1. To condemn the party-state policy of repression, tyranny, and illegality that was implemented in relation to the Cossacks and individual Cossack representatives.

2. To support the Cossack revival movement and the restoration of Cossack economic, cultural, and patriotic traditions and forms of self-government, while at the same time not permitting a return to any group [soslovnyye] privileges or forced imposition of the Cossack structure of life on citizens.

3. To establish that citizens who classify themselves as direct descendants of Cossacks and who express a desire to jointly restore and develop forms of economic activity, culture, way of life, and participate in performing state service, and also citizens who have voluntarily joined the Cossacks in line with the established procedure, can unite in farm [khutorskiye] and village [stanichnyye] communities and set up okrug, army [voyskovyye], and other traditional Cossack communities.

The membership of the Cossack communities thus established is to be recorded.

The Cossack communities are to operate in accordance with rules adopted by general meetings (assemblies) of the Cossacks living on farms and in settlements, and by okrug and army meetings. The rules are to be ratified by the heads of administrations of the respective rayons, cities, autonomous oblasts, autonomous okrugs, oblasts, and krays, and also the heads of the executive arm (the presidents) in the Russian Federation's constituent republics.

The statutes governing the rules of Cossack communities that relate to the procedure for the performance by Cossacks of military service or any other state service must be agreed in accordance with the Russian Federation Defense Ministry and other Russian Federation ministries and departments.

The rules of okrug, army, and other Cossack communities operating on the territory of several constituent republics of the Russian Federation, krays, and oblasts, are to be ratified by the Russian Federation president in agreement with the corresponding organs of the republics, krays, and oblasts.

The Cossack communities are juridical persons. The property that comprises Cossack funds and the income from the activity of their communities is the property of those communities. When budget funds are allocated to Cossack communities for ensuring the performance of state service by Cossacks, these funds come under their immediate administration and are to be used for the appropriate purpose laid down by the procedure specified by the communities' rules.

4. Under land legislation, village and other Cossack communities are to be allocated land holdings free of charge for collective land use based on traditional Cossack forms of community land ownership or shared or joint land ownership by those participating in the community.

The size of the land holding granted to a farm or village community is to be determined on the basis of the number of its participants in line with the established procedure, and also the pledges made by the participants to perform state service, as well as the need to establish a land reserve to ensure collective land use when the membership of the community increases and the allocation of plots of land to citizens who want to quit the Cossack community.

The granting of land holdings to farm and village communities should not violate the right of citizens who are not members of these communities to own, control on a lifelong heritable basis, lease or use suitable plots of land.

5. To proceed from the basis that, in line with Russian Federation legislation on local self-government in territories where Cossacks are densely settled, traditional forms of Cossack self-government can be used. The choice of the form of self-government is to be made on the basis of citizens' free expression of will (a local referendum).

6. The Russian Federation Government must:

With the participation of the organs of state power of the Russian Federation's constituent republics, krays, oblasts, the autonomous oblast, and autonomous okrugs, and taking into account proposals by social organizations, associations, and the Cossacks' organs of self-government, formulate and adopt prior to 1 January

1993 a comprehensive state program for the step-by-step economic and cultural revival of Russian cossacks;

In line with a representation from the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry, submit proposals to settle the Russian Federation's relations with CIS countries and other states in relation to issues affecting the Cossacks.

7. The Russian Federation Defense Ministry and the Russian Federation Ministry of Internal Affairs, in conjunction with other interested organs, should submit proposals on the procedure for and special features of the military service performed by Cossacks, and also safeguard the state borders and public order.

8. The federal organs of state power and the organs of executive power of the Russian Federation's constituent republics, krays, oblasts, the autonomous oblast, autonomous okrugs, and the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg are to assist the social movement for Cossack revival, while at the same time preventing the legitimate rights and freedoms of citizens from being infringed.

9. The coordination of the activity of the state organs and social organizations involved in implementing the present decree is to be entrusted to the Russian Federation State Committee for Nationalities Policy.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin
The Kremlin, Moscow 15 June 1992
No. 632

Rutskoy Interviewed on 'Without Retouching'

LD1906084592 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1745 GMT 18 Jun 92

["Without Retouching" presented by Sergey Torchinskiy and Tatyana Krasnova, with Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy and various international and domestic reporters—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Torchinskiy] Let us start with KRESTYANSKIYE VEDOMOSTI. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA will be next.

[Gavrochkin] KRESTYANSKIYE VEDOMOSTI. Aleksandr Vladimirovich, my questions will be on agrarian themes, naturally.

[Torchinskiy] Valeriy Gavrochkin, do not forget to introduce yourself.

[Gavrochkin] [passage omitted on the "field-to-shop" program in which Rutskoy is involved] Take a farm with 25 cows. At present prices it will cost 17 to 20 million rubles [R], perhaps even more. If milk sells for R10 per liter and if we deduct all the expenditure and outgoings of the peasant family and use all the remaining money to pay off the cost of this farm, then I calculate that it will take somewhere around 40-50 years to pay it off. In that period it is not difficult to suppose that four or five capital overhauls will be required and almost all the equipment will need to be replaced. Hence the question: Won't the peasant end up not with the promised freedom but in servitude to his debts? It will take a minimum of two generations of a peasant's family to pay off this farm. Are you sure that 90,000 stupid bumpkins will be found who will voluntarily agree to such a yoke?

[Torchinskiy] Two minutes for the question.

[Rutskoy] Obviously you should not call them stupid. If one looks at the figures, the arguments and facts, then the picture looks rather like this today: The Economy Ministry has cited the figure that today we have 120,000 private farms. It will require R10-15 million to set up even the smallest production unit at today's prices. That is the absolute minimum. Now let us multiply 120,000 by 10 million and we get the figure 1,200 billion.

The question arises here: When they were drawing up the plans to free prices, did anyone calculate that we would get into this this position, this cataclysm? As you said, even if someone is given credit or some sort of advance for his future farm, what length of time should he reckon it will take to get out of this bondage?

We—that is, my group which has been drawing up the agrarian reform—have now prepared a publication which gives a complete anlysis of all the economic reforms which affect the agro-industrial sector in Russia. About half the book is concerned with the question of the agro-industrial reform of agriculture. It gives comparitive figures, graphs, projections, and tables. That is, these are not just general ideas but specific arguments using figures.

And to tell the truth, in this situation if the policy for providing credit and investments for the agrarian reforms is correctly organized and if a mechanism is set up for managing the land via a system of land banks, then these funds can be found. There is simply no other way. Because to remain in the situation which you have just described really is to put people into servitude from which they can never escape. After all, 40-50 years really is equivalent to never getting out of it. One could agree with a figure of say 5-10 years, but not 40-50.

The complete mechanism for the implementation of this reform is worked out in full in this book. It is based on an archive analysis of the preceding reforms and it contains a model which explains why we are precisely in this situation. It goes on to describe the system for carrying out the land reform and the agro-industrial reform. At present we do not have the resources to publish this book in large numbers but we shall print somewhere about 300-400 copies. Each oblast should have at least three copies and the leaders of the agro-industrial sector should be able to study and analyze the whole antecedent situation. They will, thus, have some guidance in carrying out the reform, itself.

Apart from this, the Russian-American University which is cooperating with us on questions of agro-industrial reform has prepared a book on how to obtain land. It contains all the formalized documents, it contains the legislative basis and once again envisages the system of carrying out this reform.

The trouble is that for three months now it has not been possible to get a presidential decree signed since the government is still discussing whether or not the reform should be carried out in this way. Well, you know, I even have an interesting document here. It is from the Parliamentary Coalition of Reforms. I would call it the Parliamentary Coalition for the Destruction of Russia. In this document they also come out against creating a center for land reform and agro-industrial reform which would carry out the credit and investment policy and would examine the procedure and stage by stage progress of this reform.

You know I often get into situations when I try to prove that the process should be a controlled one but the position of some macro-economists is based on the idea that this process should proceed more or less according to the principle: throw everyone into the water; those who swim are the good guys and those who drown are of no consequence. Therefore, I tell you that the situation today is not hopeless. What are needed are actions, clear and precise actions, actions which can be explained to the ordinary worker who works directly on the land.

Well, here is something else to add to your question. Today I have just had a meeting with the leadership of Orenburg oblast. There is grain in the fields. It has begun to droop. There is no money to harvest it. There is no money to buy fuel, trucks, and so on. And come fall we shall once again be selling crude oil, we shall be buying grain for foreign currency and developing Canada's agriculture.

[Gavrilenko] Vladimir Gavrilenko, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA. Aleksandr Vladimirovich, I greet you on behalf of our newspaper—the first newspaper probably for which you wrote and were an author. My question is about the troublespots. You know what I am speaking about. Only just now as I was coming along to this broadcast I received a small piece of statistical information from the Transcaucasian Military District Headquarters—a sad piece of information about an officer and soldier who were killed. What would you say now to the officers and men, especially the officers and their families, what would you say as vice president and as a former combat officer, and how would you cheer and encourage them?

[Rutskoy] You know, I regret only one thing in all this, namely, that the Constitution lays down the rights of the vice president and the forms for his fulfillment of tasks. That is to say, I personally cannot take any specific actions, but as far as it is possible I endeavor to take them. You know the facts about the release of hostages and the reaction to various occurrences relating to the Armed Forces.

At the present time everyone is talking about the legality of the presence of our troops in the sovereign states, but no one wants to do anything in this area. The General Staff and the Defense Ministry have sent to parliament and to the presidential apparatus and the government those documents that need to be considered and adopted so as to define precisely and clearly the legal status of servicemen located in the territory of what are now, so to speak, neighboring foreign states.

What is at present happening in regard to the armed forces is a consequence of the fact that Russia is not reacting to what is taking place. You know my standpoint—and sometimes, in fact frequently, this is the main topic of the journalists when they try so to speak, to find some defect in Rutskoy when Rutskoy attempts to defend Russia's interests. A sacred principle for me personally is that once the Russian flag has been raised it should never be lowered. Those are sacred words for me. The same applies to people. Every Russian citizen should be protected in the first instance by the law, and any state and any politician should be aware of the inevitability of punishment and liability for what is perpetrated against Russian citizens, regardless of whether the individual is a civilian or a serviceman. Everyone should be aware of this.

You know, this lack of teeth with regard to what is happening to officers, servicemen's families, and soldiers and to these deaths of totally innocent people is explicable. We have of late become like vampires, you know. We can passively observe people being killed without taking any measures. Recall how events were developing in the North Caucasus a year ago—it will be a year in September. Even then I was saying how all this would end. The results are South Ossetia, the supercharging of passions over Nagorno-Karabakh and then the chain of republics themselves in the North Caucasus, including Checheno-Ingushetia. The principle of decisiveness, you know, always entails fewer losses. Decisive actions are needed on the part of the presidential apparatus, the government and the Supreme Soviet. One cannot permit people to wipe their feet on Russia and its citizens. I think that we shall get round to this.

After Boris Nikolayevich's visit to the United States the concept has been precisely defined for cooperation also with the United States on all issues including foreign policy and economic collaboration. I think that at the coming talks on the 23d of the month—these talks will be at Sochi, or to be more accurate in Dagomys—Russia's position will be precisely formulated in all areas.

[Orlov] Vladimir Orlov, MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI. Aleksandr Vladimirovich, the fact is that at present there is much dispute and argument about the process of adopting decisions at the top level of Russian power. There are different points of view and people recall what you had to say about the fact—and I quote—that President Yeltsin sometimes allows himself to be led. They also remember what your former press secretary said, namely, that after your criticism of certain persons in the circle of Yeltsin, who evidently allows them to lead him, a systematic campaign was launched against you. I should like to know the state of affairs now.

[Rutskoy] Well, you know, in the initial stage of my work as vice president I perhaps even found this systematic campaign, as you put it, painful. Now I simply pay no attention to it. I get on with what the president has entrusted me with and try to carry it out. Recently there was a stock-taking on the operational efficiency of all structures of presidential and governmental power. I can tell you that all 136 of 136 tasks were carried out. You know, there simply is not the time to pay attention and react to these petty palace intrigues.

[Orlov] But are you not put out by the fact that these intrigues could delay the adoption of very many decisions?

[Rutskoy] Let me give you a real live example. The question of a decree being signed on agro-industrial reform has gone on now for three months. Look at what it was possible to accomplish over these three months. That is to say, the process was proceeding in a passive way, and it was an opportunity to some extent to muster energy, and this energy does exist. There is hidden potential and there are possible sources for funding and possibilities to attract private credits and investments from private companies abroad. Indeed we have already set up six agro-corporations involving private companies to meet this eventuality. But what is holding us up is that there is a lack of format , that is to say that no structure exists that might act as an insurance for these foreign investors.

Time is simply being wasted. As you will be aware, we have again reached the point where the harvesting is beginning in the southern areas. I would say that resources are lacking to carry out the harvesting. Who will be accountable for this? The most interesting thing is that it turns out that those who are weaving these political intrigues and putting up these fences and telling tales are the ones responsible for this. Irrespective of his official post and function every person should first and foremost perform his functional duties, and everything else comes later. However, when intrigues are given priority and then everything else is dealt with just as it comes including issues of economics and domestic and foreign policy, it ends badly. It ends in people's indignation, and we have a mass of such facts.

[Beker] Aleksandr Beker, MEGAPOLIS EKSPRESS. Aleksandr Vladimirovich, the CPSU Central Committee secretary for the countryside—it doesn't matter whether is was Ligachev, Nikonov, or Gorbachev, and Mikhail Sergeyevich's biography does contain that fact—the CPSU Central Committee secretary for agriculture was a wholly organic part of the party's administration of the economy. But what about a Russian vice president who has been thrown at the countryside, which is commonly known to be a ruinous portfolio? Have you not had the feeling that, even if he is not pushing you out of big-time politics, Boris Nikolayevich is sending you out to the edge of it?

[Rutskoy] Let me tell you, it doesn't keep me out of big-time politics. I have shown you this work of mine. I have never engaged in agriculture, I am not an agricultural specialist by education. How did this work emerge? I picked up all the archive documents, and any moderately competent person is capable of making an analysis of these documents and, by finding a denominator, of obtaining a mathematical formula which can be applied to the present situation, which enables us to conduct this process of reform in a controlled manner, after first defining the priorities accordingly. Therefore, you know, I am least interested in what you call big-time politics; I am most interested in specific deeds. Let us at long last begin to do something normally, and not the other way around, but normally, in a logical sequence, in such a way that this sequence is clear to everybody.

Let me tell you: it is not a ruinous portfolio, but the most important portfolio today. Why? Because if we do not drag agro-industrial reform out of the pit into which we have driven it for nearly 80 years since Stolypin's death, we shall not pursue any reforms any further, but there will simply be another cataclysm, or another explosion, in society. You must agree, when there are enough foodstuffs and consumer goods—and 80 percent of them are connected with agriculture, because we all rely, in the main, on natural goods—and they are available at accessible prices, you probably won't be able to force anybody to go to a rally or to get annoyed, because there will be enough of everything. This is the most important priority in the present reforms, that simply must be understood.

This is what big-time politics is all about, but a big-time politics made up of demagogy, debates and rallies is not big-time politics, but ruinous politics. Therefore, it does not frighten me at all. I have studied this issue and am fairly well on top of it. Why? Because I argue just with figures—not with a philosophy, but with figures. A philosophy can be disputed, but you can't escape from figures.

[Beker] Aleksandr Vladimirovich, you are for deep reforms, but on the other hand, you are demanding many billions in credits and state capital investments from the government and putting pressure on the Central Bank to give credit at favorable interest rates. In other words, whether you mean to or not, aren't you becoming a lobbyist for the collective and state farm system—the very system which you are trying to reform?

[Rutskoy] Let us look at this subject as follows. If we request a list today from the Central Bank of where credits are given, for the most part, we shall see that they are all, in the main, commercial structures, commercial banks—for the most part. And let us see how much credit has been given for agriculture, for the specific program. You see, the simplest thing is to obtain credit and spend it without thinking about who will repay it.

You see, there is a polemic today—an article has even appeared in PARIS MATCH, saying that Rutskoy is threatening, and so on. But I'm not threatening anybody. The matter involved a credit of 3 billion [units not given]. First, this topic was distorted at the Congress by what people said: that he deceived the Congress—that, strictly speaking, I deceived all the people by demanding a credit of 7 billion from some Revival Bank, and so on. First of all, I demanded 3 billion, and that credit was signed by the chairman of the Supreme Soviet. The credit was signed by the deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet for planning, taxes and the budget—I mean, by the commission of the Supreme Soviet, and it was credit for 3 billion, not 7 billion, which was intended for the Russian agro-industrial complex, for the field-shop program.

On the basis of the military-industrial complex, we established a corporation to set up small and medium-sized premises for processing agricultural produce: small dairies to process milk, from 4 to 40 tonnes, vegetable works for the same quantities, from 4 to 40 tonnes, and meat processing works in the same proportion. We were ready, models had already been made—we had even taken them to Italy and received gold medals for these small processing complexes. It is because of the lack of these that we are in a bad way today, strictly speaking. That is why we have shortages today. Fifty-two percent of agricultural produce is lost today: it is allowed to rot, it is not delivered, or it is lost or destroyed—it doesn't reach the shelves. Fifty-two percent. So I requested that credit of 3 billion to begin series production of small works to process milk—4 to 10 tonnes, depending on which farms had what capacity for dairy farming. This credit has still not been given.

I have calculated that by now, if Matyukhin had come up with the credit on time, we would have 1,200 such small-scale works running. [passage omitted] But then just look at who has wrecked the state's vital circulation system—after all, finance is the vital circulation system. Just look at the recent incident concerning Chechniya, that deal involving 25 billion. You know, when a person actually knows that he will not be held accountable then he can permit himself to act in such an outrageous way. Whereas if he knew that he would have to answer for the fact that milk is being poured into the drains because there is no power to process it, then he would come up with the credit.

And then—let's propose it this way—what I would ask for would be not capital investment but credit. In other words, something we would return once the works were up and running. And then think a moment about why actually I would ask for credit. Well, look at today's prices. Who would buy such a dairy, a 10-tonne capacity one costing of the order of R30 million. Well, I would ask for that money so that the works could be let out on license, so as to be able to settle debts with the producer and then pay off the debts. And the whole concept was fully calculated just as in this book with its figures and tables.

In other words, it shows why the Supreme Soviet—because the whole mechanism for the return of that credit was shown—where it had gone, for what purposes and in what volumes, and where the produce is to be delivered. You know, I have no doubts that the time will come when Mr. Matyukhin will have to answer for his actions. The time will come.

[Torchinskiy] Thank you. Now it is the turn of TRUD, and the BBC should get ready.

[TRUD journalist] Aleksandr Vladimirovich, if you will permit, we shall dwell a little more on current agrarian policy. In many oblasts at present farm workers are setting up strike committees and threatening to leave the cities without food. In particular they are demanding that parity prices be set for farm produce as compared with produce from industrial enterprises. What is you opinion? should we move to meet those demands, or can they be waved away and disregarded?

[Rutskoy] Look, if we wave them away then we are certainly going to be left with nothing to eat. You have to realize that every person has his limits—limits of patience, limits of conscientiousness. So what becomes of such a limit, when they failed to pay the peasants for 1990? There was a swindle with the 1990 vouchers, and the procuracy is now looking into it. Let me tell you, there was some dreadful double-dealing - tens or hundreds of millions, even billions were stolen by state officials. The peasants saw nothing of the vouchers they were supposed to receive—they were hoodwinked. In 1991 we promised to pay them in foreign currency, because somehow or other we had acquired the habit of paying in foreign currency when we paid for food from the West and converting that foreign currency into imports. Yet we have still not paid our own peasants what we promised them. [passage omitted: Rutskoy elaborates on the plight of farmers]

People are asking for money so they can buy fuel and buy combines to harvest the grain. Yet everyone is acting as though nothing were amiss. Everyone is pretending, Matyukhin too, that nothing is amiss. Yet the question has been posed. We actually export raw materials,we export semi-finished goods. So let us pay out in the form of special purpose payments—futures, if you like—in other words, let us pay to the tune of at least 50 percent of the future harvest, so as to make it possible for it to be gathered in. Yet again nobody reacts to this.

[Unidentified speaker] What about you?

[Rutskoy] And where parity of prices is concerned, you know, in practically every state in the world agriculture is subsidized. And why is it subsidized? Well, because that's the kind of industry it is; there is no other way. The actual way the industry is run needs to be looked at urgently, because there is no system in the forms of running it. All forms of operation should exist. There is no need to do away with the collective farms. There is no need to do away with the state farms. But they do need to be transformed into joint-stock societies, joint-stock companies, so that the individual can come to feel that he owns some part of the property. And this needs to be borne in mind all the time, because the situation today is that people are simply in a dead-end. And this leads to the most comical, the most absurd things in the end—we export raw material to sell for foreign currency, and with that foreign currency we provide assistance for rural workers in Canada, or France, or Italy, or Spain—well, anyone but our own. Well, what do you think, aren't people going to get indignant about this? Of course they are.

[Torchinskiy] Thank you. Over to you, BBC. Get ready, MEGAPOLIS EKSPRESS.

[BBC Russian Service journalist] Aleksandr Vladimirovich, I would like to return to the issue of big politics. Recently, everybody was attracted by a statement made by former Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray. He claimed that Yeltsin has not got much more time as president and that you will take his place, or rather not take his place but that the powers will be transferred to you and that, so to speak, the military industrial complex and managers of large enterprises are behind you. How do you assess such a statement? Are you preparing to assume power?

[Rutskoy] Honestly, I would like to tell you that I can argue about something, debate things, or try to prove a point but I have no intention of abandoning the ship even if it starts sinking. Do you understand? I have no intention of taking power away from somebody. I have been in command quite enough in my live, in contrast to some people. I have no intention of being in command. I want only one thing: some kind of logical consistency in politics, in reforms, in economics which are understood by the people and by the individual.

As for what Shakhray is writing now—incidentally, his article was published in KOMMERSANT—I just laughed at all that, at all those predictions. I would like to tell you that some critical situations cannot be ruled out if the relevant measures are not undertaken. Yes, the IMF is a good thing. It is an excellent thing. It is also a good thing that the United States is responding. But what does it take to register these credits? You know the bureaucracy. It will take at least six months to do this. Then, you know, I am in support of such actions when—first and foremost one should rely on oneself—because when a person is sick and has lost strength he is incapable of moving around by himself. The same happens with a state which is sick, it is incapable of moving by itself. And to make a beggar out of a state—and we have already lowered ourselves to such a level of humanitarian aid—is a shameful thing to happen. I am personally ashamed of this. To me it is like a slap in the face. For how long is this to go on? We have the figures right here that prove that we are capable of being a normal power which is capable of feeding itself and feeding other peoples and rendering assistance to other peoples which are less developed.

As for what Shakhray is writing today—well, you know, this is political demagogy.

[BBC journalist] In other words, we can infer that there will not be a crisis of state power in Russia in accordance with the timetable predicted by Shakhray?

[Rutskoy] Not only that, let me tell you something else. When you leaf through the newspapers, you see all that endless talk about the military-industrial complex. It's said that Rutskoy is a henchman of the military-industrial complex. How can I be a henchman of the military-industrial complex, for God's sake? Incidentally, I have just had another argument with the military-industrial complex. The government has decided that 100 billion should be spent on conversion, that this money should go to the military-industrial complex. Wait a bit, I say. Where is the customer? Let's give 50 billion to agriculture, so it can order the equipment it needs from the military-industrial complex. Then we'll be able to see who's doing the ordering and who's asking for something to be manufactured. But, they're saying, where's the guarantee that the money won't all be wasted?

[BBC journalist] But, all the same, the party which you head is the party of the military-industrial complex, because...

[Rutskoy, interrupting] It is not the military-industrial complex. Volskiy's party is the party of the military-industrial complex.

[BBC journalist] I see.

[Rutskoy] It calls itself "Renewal", doesn't it? I believe that's its name. On Sunday, by the way, there will be a joint conference of three councils, those of the People's Party of Free Russia, the Democratic Party, and Volskiy's Renewal Party. We will hold a joint conference on coordination of reform. This is not some kind of rally, confrontation, or opposition to the government. We will have a talk and meet with heads of agricultural enterprises and public organizations. We will meet and discuss this problem—the problems which arise in society, the objectives we should set ourselves.

But look at Ostankino, the people there. They are the result. Is this what we want? Therefore I tell you ...

[BBC journalist, interrputing] Do you think that the Ostankino episode is a serious matter?

[Rutskoy] I don't regard it as a joke. It is not a joke.

[BBC journalist] They are mostly elderly people.

[Rutskoy] I agree with you.

[BBC journalist] They are people who really have suffered during this extremely difficult period of reform, which they have often not been able to endure.

[Rutskoy] They are people, I agree. But sometimes their behavior is quite simply savage. They might spit at women, at commentators. How can such a person regard himself as a man or even a human being? This is the lumpen process taking place in society. That is the most terrible thing today. The fact that some of those has-beens, allied to current political forces, are again indulging in political intrigue will not help society at all. It won't help at all. Yes, I know they have this right under the constitution. I would like all today's leaders to prosper. But at the end of the day they must come out firmly and clearly in support of statehood and defense of Russia's state interests. De Gaulle put it very well when he said: Not everything which is good for the French is good for France. First of all, we must think of the state. The state itself is made up of people. If this is done, these articles won't appear and these rallies at Ostankino will also cease.

[BBC journalist] But Boris...

[Torchinskiy, interrupting] That's all. Your time's up.

[Passage omitted: KRIMINALNAYA KHRONIKA journalist asks about steps to curb the crime wave, to which Rutskoy says that crime is caused by the fact that people do not have proper jobs and housing and that these issues must be addressed]

[Torchinskiy] Your turn MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS. Get ready LITERATURNAYA GAZETA.

[Poegle] Vadim Poegle, MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS. Aleksandr Vladimirovich, let's return to Ostankino. On the one hand, you are an advocate of strong state power. On the other hand, I personally recall your saying: We must work with the patriots. So what should be done? Should the camp have been broken up on the first day, and then some airtime allocated?

[Rutskoy] I have borrowed my formula for life from Chicherin. Chicherin was, basically, our country's first advocate of strong state power. This was also Stolypin's formula—liberal reform coupled to strong authority. The two things are inseparable. Let's take a look at what democracy really is. In my understanding—and, I believe, in the understanding of normal people—democracy is, first and foremost, the constitution and the law, before which everybody, without exception, is equal, including the president, the vice president, the worker, the peasant, the journalist and the propagandist, irrespective of what that citizen does. This is equality before the law and before the Constitution.

So, that business going on outside Ostankino is lawlessness. It is lawlessness. It is a breach of the law. It is a violation of the Constitution. Measures should have been taken, on the very first day. Sufficient physical force could have been used, to the extent that it was warranted, without inflicting bodily injury. There are a large number of ways of doing this—water cannon and so on. They could have been pushed back, and so on. But such situations—the insulting of the state, the insulting of the state flag, the insulting of people—cannot be allowed. Nobody has given the go-ahead for people to be insulted.

To be honest with you, I am sick of this demagogy, both from the left and from the right. As a citizen, I am personally sickened by all this demagogy. I personally hold a centrist position, as a person who believes in strong state power. There is a state, there is Russia, there is the citizen. Let's all build this state together, let's revive this state. But nothing will be achieved by all this wailing, shouting, spitting, and jeering. The same applies to the things being written on the left, those calls for a parliamentary coalition, for reform. Democratic Russia is responsible for all that. But the same applies. Everything has been lumped together but nobody has read any of it.

[Poegle] Is it because you advocate strong state power that you decided to address the Congress of Russia's Civic and Patriotic Forces? The patriots did not see your point of view, as I understand it. Is that so?

[Rutskoy] No. I made a special point of attending the Congress of Patriotic Forces in order to make my views known to Pamyat, to tell them what I thought of them. That's the first reason why I turned up there. Second, I wanted to hear them out, to find out what the thinking of the patriotic movements is. If the patriotic movement is aimed at the revival of statehood, at the restoration of legality, at the restoration of constitutional order, I favor such a patriotic movement. But I am against patriotic movements when they seek a showdown on ethnic grounds. I am against patriotic movements which call for the overthrow of the existing authorities, by force, which call for violence, which call for a showdown between Democrats and Communists, between Communists and Democrats.

[Poegle] Incidentally, General ...

[Torchinskiy, interrupting] Your time is up. Thank you.

[Solomonov] Yuriy Solomonov, LITERATURNAYA GAZETA. Aleksandr Vladimirovich, I saw you three months ago in the Kremlin when you received me and an Italian journalist. We had a fairly long and sharp discussion. I sent you a transcript of this interview, and after thinking it over for a while, via an aide you passed on that it would be better not to publish it for the moment. What makes this conversation different from the one recorded by me is probably the fact that there there were quite a number of specific names—people you believed to be directly to blame—this is my assessment—for what is going on and so on. Therefore, I get the feeling, that with all your exterior appearance of decisiveness, so to speak, you are a little unsure of yourself and what you are now telling us demonstrates the same opposition way of thinking, although, in essence, you are the second man in the state.

Therefore, here is my question. Who is the mythical they who are slowing you down in the introduction of all these affairs and who is stopping us from advancing quickly, because everything you are saying is correct, but where so to speak are the grounds for believing in a plot, or is it incompetent people in the government and the Supreme Soviet, so to speak? Who are these people you are opposing, or is it a section of the population or what is it? Where is the underlying mechanism which now needs to be modernized, so to speak, or be destroyed, what needs to be done?

[Rutskoy] You see, I would not call my actions opposition. Why? I stand for logic, for consistency in reforms. I am in favor of changes, changes in the Constitution and changes in the economy and the structure of prices, but I am in favor of an economy geared toward social issues in the first place. It is not opposition. It is the clear and succint position of an individual. [passage omitted: Rutskoy says he has not forgotten his election campaign and the fact that he stood with Yeltsin but feels that some of the promises made then do not tally with what is currently taking place. Referring back to the interview mentioned in the question, Rutskoy confesses that he is wary of giving interviews because of the tendency to paraphrase or to distort.]

As for what you are now asking, who are they, the ones who are standing in the way, I have already said, our government is led by Gaydar. At long last he has put his official stamp to a decree, excluding the two points where I speak about the specific system of financing reform in the agricultural industry, and I said in relation to this, although this point was excluded, that I will insist to the president that this point should be there. They refused to include in the government the deputy chairman of the government responsible for the bloc of ministries and departments connected with agriculture. I will also insist upon this. You see.

And here, this can probably be explained not by the fact for example that this Yegor Timurovich Gaydar or Aleksandr Nikolayev, Shokhin, or Nechayev, or the finance minister are not professional enough. No, they are professional people, quite well-trained, but they do not have any experience of consistency in their actions, they do not have experience of assessing the situation and decision-making. It is not essential to be an economist. One needs to be an administrator. I may not know how to milk a cow, I may not know to what depth the fallow needs to be plowed, and I do not plan to advise anyone as to how this should be done. My task is to provide for and organize things so that cows can be milked and the finished produce handed over, and the fallow is plowed and the wheat is harvested. Therefore, I have never avoided anyone. I rely on my own strength and I have always said that my principle is that in the first place, one should rely on oneself, and then on others and on what is around. But in order to put into practice this self-reliance, you need to work constantly with people.

The politician or great economist, or sort of public figure capable of carrying out some reform or other himself has yet to be born. Reform is implemented by the masses, the masses who need to understand it. The Sixth Congress approved reform. You are all sitting here, and what are you like? You are as you are. But where is that idea itself? How will these reforms be implemented? Where are these stages? Who is responsible for these stages? What will we happen to us tomorrow or the day after tomorrow? Do you know? No, therefore, I am a supporter of the fact that if, at the end of the day, we do not want Russia to endure a fourth troubled period, then we need to think about these issues. Think about them and then clearly and succintly define them.

[Passage omitted: journalist tries to put another question, but is told that his time is up]

[Yakovleva] Yelena Yakovleva, IZVESTIYA. Aleksandr Vladimirovich, at the moment with your blessing and support a center of agrarian reforms is being created. Raise the curtain on this now. Wherein lies the principal novelty of this, and in general what is the main necessity for it? Why do you not like the traditional course of reforms which is being carried out by the State Committee on Land Reform?

[Rutskoy] A system is necessary, a securities market is necessary. Property must be protected by security, then it is property. And why is the center being created? The center is a mechanism, it is not some kind of super-departmental instrument. It is a body which will work on attracting private investments—domestic and foreign. And be responsible for the realisation of these investments, underwrite these investments. It is a body which will administer credits and investments by states, the domestic state, I mean the Russian state, and foreign states. Because if today we raise the question, say: account for some credit or other, I guarantee that no-one gives an account. Maybe it's time to stop all this disappearing into the ground. Further, it is a body which will accordingly follow the course of reforms and adjust directions and changes. [passage omitted: Rutskoy states that his office of 36 people receives around 50 complaints a day on agrarian issues alone].

A system is necessary, a man has nowhere to go where he can ask for consultations, explanations, protection, help. And then a system is necessary which would follow and examine—it is necessary to publicize. Because today we do not need more revolutions, we have already been through these revolutions, dozens of revolutions have swept over the Russian land. Today in the first place we need an evolution in consciousness, man's consciousness. And somebody has to work on this. [passage omitted: Rutskoy says that a Yeltsin decree made him responsible for agriculture, yet many departments continue to issue documents, often contradictory, on agriculture which he never sees]

Please, go out onto the streets, look at what's going on, in the shops, with prices, in life. This is not reform, it is chaos today. Reform must have a controlled nature. A system is necessary, but there is no system today. [passage omitted: Rutskoy says that he has spent 18 hours a day for three months studying these problems]

I propose to conduct the reform itself through a system of land banks, not through soviets, not through administration, where a man comes and is humiliated, insulted, robbed. I can quote a huge number of cases of bribery. [passage omitted: Rutskoy recounts how bribery works and its effects]

If there is a land bank, if there is a securities market, if there is a controlled system of land funds. If I want to buy land, I go there and it's bought. The bank looks to see how I work it. It's probably time to come to this. What have we done with our lands over the last 20 years? Forty percent of arable land is simply ruined. Why? There was no longer a system which would control the correct use of land.

[Torchinskiy] Radio Liberty.

[Volchuk] Dmitriy Volchuk, Radio Liberty. Aleksandr Vladimirovich, it is no secret that you are the only person in the Russian leadership who is liked by the so-called red-brown forces, national patriots, and so on. If you look, there is no sign of your name on the posters at the rallies at Ostankino, about which we have talked a lot now, where they demand that certain people be swept out with a filthy broom or strung up, and so on. All manner of people are mentioned: Yeltsin, Popov—I have even seen a caricature of Silayev, although I don't know where he is now—but your name isn't there. You send your articles to PRAVDA, for example—which also tells us a lot—and you go to the Dniester region and declare that the Dniester republic is legitimate, and so on. General Makashov goes there after you, simply starts fighting there and says the same thing. How do you explain these common views, and why do they like you? After all, there is probably a reason for it.

[Rutskoy] You know, we really must think about this matter. I have no personal contact with them. You have asked me a question about Ostankino—I condemn such actions and am in favur of taking constitutional measures in accordance with the law, because—if you will forgive me—that is not democracy. Why isn't my name there? I can also explain it: because I have never turned away from my views in any direction. My whole policy and all my activities are based on consistency.

Furthermore, let us remember this: who has stood up clearly and precisely anywhere for the position of the Russians in the CIS republics outside Russia? Why is it possible to mock a person just because of his Russian nationality? Let me give you an example. A commentator, who shall remain nameless, appears on state television and says roughly the following: being proud to be a Russian by birth is the same as being proud to have been born on a Saturday or a Sunday. For some reason, whenever the subject of the Russians is raised, the others think is is an insult to the rest.

My views are founded on consistency and logic, but I don't know why I don't appear on those pages or posters, as they are called. Perhaps they like me, because I adhere to a position of logic.

Regarding the Dniester region, let me tell you: it is not a struggle for the freedom and independence of Moldova, but genocide. When a person has his hands bound, is tied with barbed wire, burned alive with a blowtorch, and then killed with a shot to the back of the head, that is not a struggle for the freedom and independence of Moldova, nor is what is being done now by Georgia with regard to South Ossetia a struggle for freedom and independence in South Ossetia. The word for it is banditry—and people must be made to answer for banditry. Nobody has rescinded the International Declaration of Human Rights: open it and look at Articles 12, 6, and 8.

You see, I don't want to divide society into redshirts, brownshirts, blackshirts, and greenshirts. That will all end up in blood. We must stop finding out who is of what nationality or who occupied what post previously—who worked or didn't work in the Central Committee. It is easier for me talk about it, because I never worked in the Central Committee, and then the Central Committee expelled me from the party for my views. We mustn't divide people into redshirts, brownshirts, greenshirts, or blueshirts—they are all people. The easiest thing of all is to insult people and hurl abuse at them, and the hardest is to explain why we are acting in a particular way, because it is also hard to explain one's actions if they are unfounded and have not been calculated or analyzed.

[Volchuk] In that case, the following question is inevitable: do you think the CPSU needs to be put on trial?

[Rutskoy] In the sense that we need to get to the bottom of its activities, I have no doubt at all. I forecast to the CPSU how it would end, literally two months before my expulsion from the party. I told them how they would end, and that was how they actually did end. As regards the money which I paid—and there are probably some former CPSU members here too—we must find out where it went, because everybody spoke at that time—and this, strictly speaking, is what started the argument—about the social needs of our people, but nobody gave a single ruble from the CPSU for those needs of the people.

A party veteran wearing torn clothes and a badge for 50 years' membership died on a tram in my presence, but the CPSU did not even help such people, who had actually been in the party for half a century. We need to get to the bottom of this and of other crimes committed against individuals for their political views. I believe it is necessary to get to the bottom of it, but not in order to create a new set of gulags, so to speak, but in order for people to realize that we cannot carry on living like that. And we must stop dividing people into greenshirts, redshirts, and brownshirts and into democrats and anti-democrats.

[Krasnova] Aleksandr Vladimirovich, at present in many publications—and this has already been mentioned here—many journalists express fears that the national-patriotic way of thinking could form a major part of your world view. There is even an article by Tikhovskiy which cites the founder of the Nashi movement, who said of you that you are one of them. Can you dispel these fears to some extent?

[Rutskoy] You know, I would like all of us, all who live in this state, to be our people. And this question is being raised again of who are our people and who are not. Where will all of this end? You know, attempts have frequently been made to involve me with national patriotism. Every one of our citizens should be a patriot of our homeland. You know, I am full of admiration when the U.S. anthem is played and the citizens of the United States put their hand on their heart and sing the anthem. I admire these people. But the addition of the word "national" to make national-patriotism is not compatible with the concept of the ideal patriotism of the citizen.

Let us put it this way. I have frequently said that although I have given no grounds for the constant pushing of this theme, I get the impression that because they have got nothing else to pin on Rutskoy they have to push this theme. That is, the theme that he always raises and regards as the most important.

I have said that these words are sacred for me: Once the Russian flag has been raised it can never be lowered. It should never be lowered on the Black Sea Fleet because the Black Sea Fleet has been Russian since time immemorial. My position is that the Crimea should never become Ukrainian because it has been Russian land since time immemorial and it is steeped in the blood of our forbears. I do not agree with a person's being persecuted in another state of the CIS for belonging to the Russian-speaking population.

And therefore they play this card of national-patriotism. But how can one fail to love one's own homeland? How can one fail to love those very few churches that still remain, how can one fail to love art, how can one fail to love pictures, how can one fail to love one's music, how can one fail to love one's countryside?

I have just returned from Latin America. These are wonderful, fairy-tale states even though they are developing countries. Though I do not know what sort of country we are after visiting Brazil and Argentina. But you know, when you have flown in and are travelling about, they do not have what we have. One can agree with anything else but no one will give you a different homeland and you must defend it, no matter what it costs you.

But this theme is immediately seized upon: there is something to pin on him, let's make the most of it. Take MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI. Do you remember the article about Rutskoy and Rutskoyism? That was a fine example. Or take STOLITSA. They cut out a photograph, stuck on a uniform, a machine gun and so on. And one of my favorite expressions, that a real politician should alter reality and not his views. And again with the machine gun and so on. Well, am I not correct? It is all very well for views to be changed and discussed. But it is necessary at times to alter reality, too, on the firm basis of one's views.

Shumeyko Intends To Restore Governability

MK2306212192 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Jun 92 p 2

[Report by Afanasiy Barsukov: "'The Government Would Like To Show That It Is the Government,' New First Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko Declared"]

[Text] Vladimir Shumeyko has reported that the tactics of the Russian cabinet will undergo very substantial changes in the very near future. The new vice premier gave this assurance: "The government has only been strengthened by my arrival. You will see this in the very near future not from words but from deeds. Our actions will be more equal to the task...Gaydar and his team, as it is so called, will continue as before to make strategic computations of options. But I will tactically rearrange the strategy of reform to meet our Russian conditions."

While there is still no compromise draft law on the government, "we have decided to work more efficiently and harmoniously, and to restore the running of the country and its governability...Power and democracy are complementary concepts." This means, as Shumeyko declared, that the government intends to take a whole series of specific tough measures. In particular, to restore discipline in all spheres of Russian life, but discipline based "not on diktat but on the concept of state necessity."

"Someone arrived in a city," Vladmir Shumeyko recounted, "and asked in a store: 'How are goats slaughtered here?' 'Probably by means of an explosion, my dear!' the salesgirl replied. 'Why an explosion?!' the person exclaimed in amazement. 'You can see for yourself: There are only ears and hoofs on sale...' It's the same with reform." Shumeyko himself believes that the reform must be a delicate surgical operation, performed by no means by way of an explosion but exclusively with a sharp scalpel.

The scalpel is evidently the coming series of tough, specific measures, which should include, so Vladimir Shumeyko maintains, the decree of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, expected within the next few days, on the

100-percent (total) selling of shares in all state enterprises as of 1 July 1992. Shumeyko remarked that in the present situation, when the impossibility of the full-fledged privatization of enterprises has become apparent and, at the same time, they can no longer be allowed to go bankrupt at the state's expense, the share form of ownership, which is convenient for internal transactions, is attractive to foreign investors, and makes it possible to reform the system of credit and financial relations, will solve many problems.

According to the vice premier's report, so as to make the decree's fulfillment relatively possible, the Central Bank has agreed to allocate to Russian state enterprises credit of "500 billion dollars...damn it!—rubles..." Approximately 88 sectoral and regional commissions have already been set up to distribute the credit.

As regards the sale of shares proper, in the vice premier's opinion, the optimum scheme is to sell shares by means of creating large holding companies, because at present the owner of all the shares (100 percent) is the state, and the question of the allotment for the labor collectives and the managers, and the question of ownership of the controlling block still have to be resolved. The vice premier said that the decree or, rather, the detailed (and still incomplete) appendix to it provides for all possible kinds of holdings: sectoral, regional, intersectoral, interregional, and transnational. Transnational holdings (i.e. between the now sovereign ex-republics), according to Vladimir Shumeyko's assurance, are the most attractive from all viewpoints as a possibility of restoring the devastated economic ties throughout the territory of the former USSR. Talks with several independent neighbors have already been crowned with success.

As for the question of incentives and levers for the introduction of a new disciplinary arrangements, it will thus, in the opinion of Vladimir Shumeyko, resolve itself all by itself: "Shares mean dividends. And dividends are the vital thing..."

Gaydar Says Fuel Prices To Rise Over Two Years

LD2306205192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 23 Jun 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Yegor Gaydar said today that fuel prices will be rising over the next two years in Russia until they reach the average world prices. In view of the internal political situation, it is not possible to raise them any faster.

Unions Urge Yeltsin To Free Oil, Gas Prices

OW2306204292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1900 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The critical financial situation in the oil and gas mining industry may force them to take extreme measures, including a work stoppage, says an address from the chairmen of the trade committees of the oil and gas and construction amalgamation to Russian President Boris Yeltsin who attended a meeting Tuesday [23 June] outside of Moscow.

The document says that maintaining fixed prices for oil and gas "under uncontrolled price increases" for equipment have brought the enterprises to the verge of bankruptcy. Under such conditions the enterprises of the oil and gas complex are not only unable to increase production, they can not even maintain last year's volume.

The address contains a demand to release oil and gas prices, and immediately solve the problems connected with the payment of salaries.

Further on Nechayev Plans for Enterprise Debts

OW2306181692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1716 GMT 23 Jun 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "The Russian Federation's government has no intention to discount mutual debts of enterprises", said Economics Minister Andrey Nechayev in an exclusive interview with IF [INTERFAX] correspondent Kirill Dibrova. "We'll never take that step though lately it has been much mooted in the Supreme Soviet", he stressed.

This method of discounting mutual indebtedness of various enterprises—actively advocated by the Central Bank and the Ministry of Industry—is a very slippery path though the sums involved reach rb [rubles] 2,000,000 bn [billion] [figure as received]. Embarking on it would mean the government accepts all the prices at which mutual shipments were made, also the need for those shipments.

And in most cases, explains Andrey Nechayev, following the liberalization of prices for the basic materials and manufactures, enterprises asked inflated prices for their products which were, as before, of poor quality. For example, The Rostselmash plant of farm machinery in Rostov-na-Donu seized the opportunity of the shortage of equipment before harvesting to sell its low-quality Don harvesters and became a net creditor: it owes rb 2.5 bn and is owed rb 4.9 bn. If that is mutually discounted, the plant will find itself in an unfairly advantageous position without changing its production or raising its quality.

Then such a procedure would, in fact, be practically unfeasible, warns Andrey Nechayev. Besides, there's an illusion that the measure could be carried out without recourse to additional credit emission.

At the same time the minister admitted that the government was issuing some additional credit emission. A total of rb 500 bn is expected to be crdited to enterprises, but only for developing production, not for paying debts, explained Andrey Nechayev. That will inevitably nudge inflation still further, but no new price leap is expected since the resulting production should increase supply on the market.

Commenting at the request of our correspondent on the recently signed presidential decree on bankruptcy, Andrey Nechayev said his ministry was against that measure at the moment. It is far more stringent than the bill being prepared by the government. It may result in a situation when weak enterprises will find it easier than paying concerns. On the other hand, conceded Nechayev, the decree may produce "a strong psychological effect" in confirming the resolve by the Russian government never to write off debts again.

On the problem of foreign investments the minister expressed hope that the G-7 meeting in Munich with Russia's participation should strengthen its positions in the eyes of foreign investors. The Russian delegation "not only intends to confirm the reform course, but also to make some interesting proposals".

The gist of those proposals is in a joint programme of attracting capital to Russia. "We can no longer rely on credits for that will lead in the long run to an impasse", admitted Andrey Nechayev. We must give most attention to direct foreign investments in our economy. The Russian leadership will propose to the G-7 leaders a plan of joint action to create a favourable climate for an inflow of foreign capital. Some steps in that direction should be taken, according to the minister, by "our foreign partners".

IZVESTIYA Details Ostankino Picket, Clash

PM2306211092 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 4

[Report by Sergey Taranov: "What Happened in the Capital 22 June?"]

[Text] On 22 June 1992 forces of national communists launched an offensive, unprecedented since last August, against the legally elected authorities. The "hot spots" in Moscow were the Ostankino TV Center, the square in front of Riga Station, and Manezh Square.

It is naive to believe that the hysterical rallies on the day that the Great Patriotic War broke out simply came about by themselves. The previous day thousands of Muscovites received anonymous "Working Russia" leaflets in which—and I am quoting word for word—Viktor Anpilov, Richard Kosolapov, and others promised that "on 22 June...we will continue the war", since "the leadership of Yeltsin's television service and Yegor Yakovlev personally are wrecking the talks on the 'Insight Hour' ['Chas Prozreniya'] program," and, for their part, the leaders of "Working Russia" had "sworn to fight to the death."

At 0430 hours Moscow militia subunits began moving the pickets away from Ostankino—or, rather, from the square they had occupied without authorization—in order to let vehicles through.

Here is an extract from a statement issued by the Moscow State Internal Affairs Administration:

"...Many of those present, numbering around 150 people, refused to carry out the militia workers' legitimate demands and put up physical resistance. Thirteen militiamen were injured or hurt to varying degrees-...Fourteen people were arrested. Many of them are not residents of Moscow and are unemployed. The widespread rumors about casualties and hundreds of injured are false and groundless."

Slightly later it transpired that there had nonetheless been one "casualty" on the pickets' side: An elderly man had been taken to the Sklifosovskiy Institute with a heart attack. He was nothing like the "innocent people who were beaten up," according to "Working Russia"—an old woman, 13-year-old girl, and a boy. At the institute's reception desk we were told that several people had come in from Ostankino that morning complaining of injuries. They were all allowed home after treatment.

The other "casualties" did not move very far from Ostankino. Having torn up their jerseys and shirts, they sat in the middle of the road surrounded by people, showing them the marks of the special purpose militia detachment [OMON] nightsticks. They appeared to be well-built young men, some half-drunk, with dressings on their hands and fingers.

By 1500 the Ostankino complex was already surrounded by trucks and OMON personnel. The small group of pickets did not dare begin an offensive and retreated about half a kilometer to the central entrance to the Exhibition of National Economic Achievements. But even there they were disappointed—the widely advertised rally drew no more than 1,000 people, and even they were soon cleared away by the OMON.

At half past six in the evening the detachments of the "organized opposition" decided to move to Manezh Square, where a rally of war veterans was being held with the authorities' permission.

At 1830 the column of demonstrators was stopped by the militia outside Riga Station. The State Internal Affairs Administration admitted that, given the attempt to break through to the city center, the OMON were forced to use their nightsticks to drive away the attackers. The clash lasted around five to seven minutes. Militiamen have testified that rocks were thrown at them, and several of those arrested were found to be carrying homemade bombs.

Speaking at the Riga Station rally, Anpilov called for a sit-down strike. The story about people having been killed outside Ostankino at half past five in the morning acquired new details: It seemed that five people had been killed—one veteran and four teenagers. But this IZVESTIYA correspondent was unable to find among the crowd a single witness to a "killing" or anyone who saw the corpse of a picket with his own eyes.

Meanwhile, a military band was playing on Manezh Square and the bemedaled veterans were preparing to mark the portentous date. Unfortunately, it did not happen. These good old people were met with slogans along the lines of "The veterans sold out—the real heroes are at Ostankino!"

One of the "real heroes"—Igor Malyarov, a comrade in arms of Anpilov's from "Working Russia"—called on those in Manezh Square to "hold the bridgehead in the center of Moscow until reinforcements can arrive from Ostankino" so as then to "overthrow Yeltsin's government of occupation."

Without waiting for any help, a crowd of more than 2,000 marched down Tverskaya Street to the Moscow City Soviet building, while some veterans—with their mood hopelessly spoiled—went to the Eternal Flame by the Kremlin Wall to pay their respects to the war dead, if only by hastily laid flowers.

The same day the national communists from "Working Russia" issued a call for a general political strike 2 July, and opposition deputy V. Isakov proposed that the Russian parliament set up a commission "to examine the question of introducing a state of emergency in the Russian Federation" and "to begin political and legal preparations for the government's resignation."

Yes, incidentally, we do already have a shadow government too. Its composition was publicized by Vladimir Volfovich Zhirinovskiy on 22 June.

Or does the overthrow of democratic power start some other way?

Square 'Ran Red' With Blood

PM2306213192 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 23 Jun 92 p 2

[Report by D. Gerasimov: "Son Killed Before Mother's Eyes"]

[Text] Moscow—At 1100 hours Monday, 22 June, all the approaches to Ostankino were cordoned off by the militia. Our editorial vehicle slowly moved past the long line of hastily parked trucks and dumpers. I counted 80 of them.

The square, which just a few hours ago ran red with the blood of unarmed and defenseless people, was now held by militia subunits. Special purpose militia detachment personnel were pouring out of buses. Colonel of the Militia Kopeykin, chief of the Northeast District Administration, refused point-blank to speak to SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA's correspondent. All I wanted was to look them in the eye—these people who were so calmly and serenely strolling around the square in front of the TV center. But I could not have stopped myself asking a question after speaking to the bloodstained, battered pickets huddled together by the entrance to the "VDNKh" [subway station, or after visiting two morgues and the Sklifosovskiy Hospital.

In the quiet of the hospital reception there were **dozens of people with head wounds and broken ribs,** people poisoned by "cheremukha" gas, and others hastily bandaged with torn shirts. A. Velmozhin, S. Belyayev, A. Kuzmin, and A. Ivanov told me about the events of this terrible morning, wiping away tears of bitterness and impotence.

"There was a boy...a boy," M. Mikhaylyuk repeated, trying to stop his lip from trembling. "His name was Sasha...He was just 13...His mother is here. But Sasha... They killed him before her very eyes with their nightsticks."

Five people were killed in all. There are too many injured to count. The dead included 16-year-old Natasha, who was preparing food in the tents, and 76-year-old T. Starostina, who lived through the Buchenwald death camp only to meet her death half a century later in downtown Moscow...

"I'm a paramedic," Yuriy Ivanovich Shatilov, shaking and sighing with grief, told me, "I did what I could to help the injured, and then helped carry the corpses. They are now at the rayon mail department. Five bodies...But there may yet be more!...."

Indeed, neither the Sklifosovskiy or Lefortovskiy Morgues were receiving any dead bodies this morning.

"This will require a special militia directive," an employee of the Lefortovskiy Morgue explained. "Only after this will we accept the body and conduct the forensic examination."

But will the morgues receive the bodies at all? Will the authorities be made responsible for this unprecedented, monstrous crime? There is no way of reaching the people who know the answers to these questions—my editorial pass proved to be powerless...

Deaths, Arrests Reported

OW2306172492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1645 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The OMON [special purpose militia detachment] and police acted in complete accordance with "The Law on Police" at Ostankino and Rizhskiy Vokzal. Late Sunday [21 June] night and Monday morning they ended the disorder and restored social order, thus fulfilling their duties, the head of the state legal department of the Moscow administration Sergey Dontsov said in an interview with "IF" [INTERFAX]. He said that the Moscow authorities repeatedly warned the picketers, even using the press to do so.

D[illegible]v said that 76 people were wounded in the operations at the television center, 28 of them were from the OMON. Seven people remain hospitalized. He warned that if the organizers of demonstrations continue to ignore the demands by authorities and "irresponsibly relate to public order", future violations will result in criminal charges.

Dontsov said that unconfirmed reports indicate that during the operations at Rizhskiy Vokzal 14 people wore arrested, and during the unsanctioned demonstration at the Moscow City Council Monday evening 10 were arrested. He said that in connection with an article in today's "SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA" stating that "innocent people were killed" in the dispersal of the picketers, the state legal committee is preparing material to submit to the court. Dontsov said that these reports are an outright lie which journalists and those responsible for publishing them will have to answer for.

Safety Official Denies Fatalities

LD2306171492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1355 GMT 23 Jun 92

[By CRIME-PRESS correspondent Yuriy Soltys—TASS]

[Text] Moscow June 23 TASS—Moscow's acting head of the Public Safety Department, Gennadiy Feklichev, denied reports on Tuesday [23 June] that several people were killed during a rally near the Ostankino Television Centre on Monday.

Feklichev said a total of 76 people reported to hospitals by 11 AM [0700 GMT] on Tuesday, including 28 policemen. Seven people were hospitalised.

Feklichev said the police were brought to the area to ensure public order during the unsanctioned rally, adding that its organisers also planned to storm the building of the television centre.

Medical Staff Confirms 'No Deaths'

LD2306120392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1025 GMT 23 Jun 92

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 23 Jun—The Main Medical Administration of Moscow today refuted rumors about the death of civilians during recent clashes in the Russian capital between the militia and demonstrators representing the political opposition.

"In the past 24 hours—from 0900 22 June to 0900 23 June—a total of 76 people were injured in connection with the events in the area of Ostankino, the Riga railway terminal and Gilyarovskaya Street," a statement released by Moscow's Main Medical Administration says. "Of these, 22 patients were treated on the spot and 15 were taken for medical assistance to the city's hospitals by ambulance and paramedic crews. Thirty-nine injured presented themselves independently or were brought by passing traffic to the city hospitals, 28 of whom were OMON [special purpose militia detachment] officers. There were no deaths.

Of those who attended casualty departments, 47 were sent home following medical treatment, seven were taken to hospital for treatment to slight injuries or signs of concussion."

Opposition Discuss 'Riots,' Warn of Coup

OW2306154292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1439 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The "riots" in Moscow streets were staged June 22 with one purpose—to use the provoked disturbances and clamp on the country "an emergency situation". That was stated at Tuesday's [23 June] press-conference of the opposition forces in Moscow by the coordinator of the parliamentary party "Russian Unity" Gennadiy Sayenko.

In his opinion, the measures by Moscow's authorities were "inadequate" to the action of the pickets and demonstrators. Therefore the deputy demanded court action "for abuse of power and violence" against the head of Moscow's Interior Department Arkadiy Murashev and his assistants.

G. Sayenko is sure that the demonstrators were dispersed "with the knowledge and at the order" of Russia's leadership. "A parliamentary commission should dot the I's in an objective coverage of the events", he said, as the opposition deputies intend to demand.

In the words of a leader of Russia's Communist Workers' Party, Viktor Anpilov, who referred to eye-witnesses of clashes in Moscow, [incomplete sentence as received] "After all those events I have only one wish—to fight to the end and turn Russia into 'a liberated territory'", said the Communist leader.

Journalists were informed that July 2 his party intends to call the working people to a national political strike. V. Anpilov said that if an emergency situation is introduced by that time, the meeting places will be the square in front of the Byelarusian railway station and the Komsolmolskaya Square.

The chairman of the Constitutional Democrats Mikhail Astafiyev said that he had no doubt that during Boris Yeltsin's visit to Washington chances of an emergency situation in Russia were discussed. He thinks "the international public opinion will tolerate a coup if it is held under the slogan of struggle against communism".

Officers Assemblies To Operate in Armed Forces

PM1806093592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Jun 92 p 2

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent R. Zadunayskiy: "Officers' Meetings Will Operate"]

[Text] Officers' assemblies will operate in the Russian Armed Forces as a form of public initiative among cadre servicemen. This was announced in an interview with your ITAR-TASS correspondent by Captain First Rank Aleksandr Mochaykin, chairman of the coordination council of the CIS Joint Armed Forces officers' assemblies.

He noted that at a recent meeting with the council's leadership Russian Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev spoke of the need for the existence of the officers' assemblies in the Russian army. It has been decided that for the transitional period of the creation of the Russian defense ministry and armed forces all questions connected with the functioning of the officers' assemblies in the Federation army and navy will be resolved by the CIS Joint Armed Forces coordination council. For this purpose a department headed by Major General Yevgeniy Raznikov has been created in the coordination council.

The coordination council chairman described as wrong the VESTI program report that an all-Russian officers' assembly is to be held this week. In reality a session of the CIS Joint Armed Forces coordination council will be held 17-18 June at the CIS Joint Armed Forces main command, 41, Leningradskiy Avenues, the officer said.

For the time being the officers' assemblies in the Russian army will function at garrison level.

Defense Industry Wants New Legal Framework

PM2306152592 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Jun 92 p 2

[Interview with A.N. Shulunov, president of the League of Defense Enterprises, by Anatoliy Pokrovskiy and Igor Saltykov; place and date not given: "We Will Die Out Like the Mammoths—A.N. Shulunov, Chairman of the League of Defense Enterprises Assesses the Pace of Conversion"]

[Text] [PRAVDA] Aleksey Nikolayevich, chaos in the implementation of the conversion program, and hence appreciable financial and material losses, have been continuing for several years now. Your league was set up some months ago. Do you hope to somehow influence the existing situation?

[Shulunov] First a few figures indicative of this situation. In 1989 the Soviet Union's arms sales were worth $15 billion; last year, only $4 billion. Over this period the Americans increased their military trade from $7 billion to $25 billion. No wonder they welcome our show of disarmament—nature abhors a vacuum. After all, even today we could make a dollar's profit on every ruble invested in military production.

On the other hand, by the end of last year the defense complex was producing all the fatherland's televisions, tape recorders, video recorders, and sewing machines and two-thirds of its motorcycles and washing machines. Overall, two-thirds of its capacity already works for civilian production.

In these circumstances we promote no political or commercial demands, and we are ready to support economic reforms provided that there is genuine and consistent conversion of production. But for this it is necessary to issue legislative acts and delegated legislation of which Russia has not yet even laid the foundations.

Let me stress that legislative and legal "absentmindedness" and disorders lead to the failure of all projects, even the most progressive. The failure of the first conversion program, adopted with frivolous haste in 1989, is proof of this. Much patience and great efforts were required in order to finally designate a realistic path accessible to the Union government's understanding. And last year, conversion transformations already embraced more than 400 (about 40 percent) of the defense industry's leading enterprises, and virtually all the civil sectors which were engaged in the manufacture of military equipment. The production of tanks was reduced by a factor of 2.5, the production of strategic missiles by a factor of 1.5, military aircraft by 1.4, and the production of infantry combat vehicles by a factor of 3.2.

It is very difficult to judge the levels at which conversion has continued in the current year, because the defense industry has in effect disintegrated, finding itself fragmented by the borders of the CIS. Very many supplier enterprises are now cut off from the assembly giants which make strategic rockets, aircraft, and tanks. They find themselves under the personal control of Ukraine, Byelarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, and the Baltic countries.

[PRAVDA] It would appear that the league's position has already received official recognition. Proof of this is the invitation of its representatives to meetings with the Russian Federation president, the chairman of the Supreme Soviet, and leaders of the Russian Council of Ministers. What position did you adopt in these meetings?

[Shulunov] Before describing the essential elements of the meetings, I would note that today all defense enterprises can be divided into very large "groups." A sizeable number should be established as official plants or experimental design institutions funded by the state budget. These are mainly enterprises producing munitions and the latest weapons. True, a superabundance exists in various sectors of our defense industry, where it is sufficient to leave just one of three similar plants in its former role.

This bridge must be crossed as soon as possible. But without a clear military doctrine, without determining in what areas of weaponry Russia intends to maintain priority, we cannot—we do not have the right to—subjectively decide what enterprises should be fully switched to civilian production.

It was these circumstances which served as the basis for discussion at the meeting with B. Yeltsin of the problem of whether the defense complex should be assigned to a separate, autonomous industry, or whether other solutions are possible.

Representatives of a number of industrial unions and corporations who attended this meeting insisted that the defense complex should be segregated into a separate structure. That it should be granted the right to own property, to develop privatization autonomously, and to set up large holding companies.

Our opinion was fundamentally different. We are convinced that ministerial "segregation" should not be allowed. Moreover, the time has come to make a decisive break with the sector structure of economic management.

At the same time very large, virtually autonomous defense industry centers have formed in our country—Moscow, St. Petersburg, Perm, Yekaterinburg, Chelyabinsk, Izhevsk, Krasnoyarsk, Omsk, Novosibirsk. Also the North Caucasus and Volga regions. During the destatization and structuring of enterprises, the peculiar features of each of these centers can only be utilized with the greatest rationality on the basis of territorial principles, with careful consideration for the nuances of the engineering projects and the unique skills of the workers.

[PRAVDA] Nevertheless, according to some television and radio reports, a way to accelerate conversion was found at the meeting with Yeltsin...

[Shulunov] No, the conversion program is in no event short-term. It is a lengthy process. According to our assessments, different enterprises require from three to seven years to yield returns. But it seemed to laymen—even high-ranking ones—that we would cut the military budget and live happily ever after, that the billions would rain down on our heads. At one conference on conversion a doctor of economic sciences tried to prove to us how easy and simple it was, in her opinion, to switch military aircraft production to civilian aircraft production. And when we divulged the "secret" that fundamentally new engines and instruments are required, that new interiors and different technologies were needed, and that all this needed to be backed up by the cooperation of a minimum of 150 enterprises, she went away in economic disarray.

We calculated that for every ruble of canceled military orders it is necessary to invest at least one-and-a-half to two rubles. That was at the 1991 prices. And these investments will not bring in returns tomorrow or even the day after tomorrow—it will take years.

This is why our league categorically rejects political or commercial ambitions. It is prepared to be only the link chain between the Government, the Supreme Soviet, the Russian president, and the defense enterprises located all over the country. Of course, our priority task is to defend the interests of our comrades-in-arms, to preserve the scientific, technical, and production potential which the enterprises possess.

[PRAVDA] But of course, today Russia does not have enough real resources even to pay wages on time...

[Shulunov] This is why the league believes—and I think that our opinion does not differ from the government's—that today it is necessary to seek investments from Western partners in the way of credits and direct links with firms. We must urgently set up direct links between our plants and enterprises in West and East. Without involving the government, state structures, ministries, or departments in these agreements.

Our enterprises have accumulated a huge scientific and technical stock of completed research projects awaiting application. But they are rapidly becoming obsolete. And if we do not utilize this stock within two-three years—especially if we are not able to develop it—there is a threat of an unprecedented catastrophe: Instead of exporting technology, we will have to import it.

[PRAVDA] But of course, the Russian Government nevertheless finds it possible to subsidize both defense and conversion?

[Shulunov] There was an attempt back in the first quarter of this year to give immediate credit to defense enterprises to the tune of 15 billion rubles. But in fact it has received not more than 10-15 percent of the funds.

Where were these funds absorbed? You see, today the banks are mainly commercial, and exist on the funds which they earn themselves. And every one of them has its council of founders. When banks started receiving the credits allocated to us, the founders took alarm: Why give them entirely to the defense workers? We can make faster use of them. And the money seeped out of the banks, not to those for whom it was designated but into commercial structures.

[PRAVDA] Well, Aleksey Nikolayevich, mistakes costing tens of billions of rubles on a quarterly estimate testify to the government's immaturity, both in years and in business matters. However, is it capable of understanding the long-term algebra of conversion?

[Shulunov] But of course, algebra comes down to the ability to draw up equations, that is, to adopt laws. And this is a task for the Supreme Soviet, which, incidentally, has experience in this field. True, sometimes it wastes time in numerous quarrels over how to settle things as quickly and reliably as possible.

Without the necessary state expenditure defense enterprises will die out like the mammoths, in an icehouse of economic catastrophe. If, on the other hand, they are protected by long-term laws against current vulgar distortions, they will succeed in bringing in superprofits of well over the $24 billion which government innovations come to.

Besides, I think that both the president and the government will understand that they should not kill the goose that lays the golden eggs.

New Company To Promote Conversion Technology

PM2306131892 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Jun 92 First Edition p 1

[Report from ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA—ITAR-TASS column: "New Baby's Name Is 'ROKONT'"]

[Text] The presentation of the science and production company ROKONT—the New Technologies Russian Conversion Joint-Stock Company—has taken place at the Central House of Arts Workers in Moscow. ROKONT has been set up for the utilization of the latest technological processes and equipment to provide for the efficient transfer of defense enterprises to the production of civil output and the training and retraining of science and engineering personnel.

The founders include: the international joint innovations enterprise "Kosmos-Konversiya," the Moscow Aviation Institute, the Moscow Aviation Technology Institute, the science and production associations "Alyans" and "Okton," and others. Advertising and information work will be carried out by ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA's information agency "Informekspress."

Radio Technical Factory Undergoes Conversion

OW1806101292 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1845 GMT 16 Jun 92

[S. Panina video report; from the "Utro" program]

[Text] Until only recently, it is doubtful that you would have been able to see what it is that they are making in this factory, located in the middle of Krasnoyarsk. This factory has been known since 1941 as the Radio Technical [Radiotekhnicheskiy] Factory. All defense complex plants have always led a shadowy existence.

First, conversion deprived the radio communications factory and scientific research institute of its cloak of secrecy and then of its defense contracts, but the national economy has gained nothing from it so far. [video shows what appears to be an assembly line of electronic devices, and a brief interview with a man identified only as Valeriy Ivanovich Yermakov]

[Begin recording] [Panina] Valeriy Ivanovich, has this conversion been good for you?

[Yermakov] I would not say that it has been good. The conversion itself has not been organized properly, as are many new things in our country. [end recording]

On the surface, everything is fine at the factory. Discipline is enviable, and hands and heads are busy; however, instead of 90 percent of all contracts being military, only 40 percent are planned for the military today. [video shows more shots of the manufacturing process, an interview with a man identified only as Gennadiy Markovich Ragzin]

[Begin recording] [Panina] Could it happen that neither the national economy nor the military complex will gain anything from the restructuring taking place today?

[Ragzin] This is quite possible, because I think that the defense complex has been dealt a huge blow, which will be felt in the production of consumer goods. If the best specialists leave these factories, no one will gain from it—neither the people nor the state. [end recording]

Our losses have become commonplace—one loss more, one less—who cares? But here, at the Krasnoyarsk Radio Technical Factory, they manufacture communication equipment which Russia now buys abroad. This year, the scientific research institute will hand over designs of satellite communication stations for railway workers, geologists, oil industry workers, and aviators—and these are only some of the possibilities, the tip of the iceberg.

Rocket Center in Samara Faces Difficult Times

LD2406085592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Report from Samara by correspondent A. Galkin, including recorded remarks by D.I. Kozlov, chief designer of the Progress plant in Samara; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] For the first time we can openly say that all the rockets which carry our cosmonauts into the orbit are made at the Progress plant in the city of Samara on the River Volga. Only a few days ago, a carrier rocket for the Russian-French crew was transported from here to Baykonur.

There is another secret which probably everyone knew but preferred to keep quiet about: These rockets are used not so much for the needs of the national economy, as they used to say, as for the needs of defense. They put electronic and photo-surveillance satellites into orbit.

The military is the primary customer. Does the primary customer object to other business being done on the side?

[Kozlov] Our present approach is that 30 percent of the output of each military industry enterprise should be produced for the needs of the national economy.

[Galkin] As well as fulfiling military orders, the design center created biological and technological satellites, equipment for the natural sciences, and instruments for fundamental research. But today the collectives and the enterprise of the experimental design center are facing difficult times. There are no orders, and no money is coming in. The ties with suppliers, and there used to be hundreds of them, have been broken. Highly-qualified personnel are leaving. Not everyone is happy to be producing sausage-making machines or chocolate molds instead of space technology, even though such things are needed by the country. [video shows a rocket launch, production assembly lines, close-up of rocket parts, and various pieces equipment]

Conversion of Tanks Into Tractors Viewed

OW2406095492 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1845 GMT 22 Jun 92

[From the "Utro" program]

[Text] [Reporter B. Ternoushko] It is known today that our rivers and lakes are crammed with more timber than anywhere else in the world. [video shows logs awash on lake shore] For this reason, the two-machine ecological complex which has made an appearance on the Karelian waterways is probably without precedent. Its creators are the designers of the Onega tractor factory.

However, the noble goal they have set for themselves was not only the saving of waterways from the legacy of the economical economy. They have reckoned that all stained wood is sought after in all timber-growing countries, while we are swamped with it. So why not revive our fish spawning beds while making a large profit in rubles and foreign currency?

Is it possible to build and mass produce a new tractor under our current situation? So, they used their brains and decided to use conversion for their own profit. [video shows what appears to be a floating tractor on lake surface, retrieving logs with a mechanical arm and loading them on a small barge towed behind] A partner appeared soon, too—a defense facility which used to produce floating tanks. Thus, battle machines became sanitation workers and immediately demonstrated their ability. Maneuverable and easy to control, they can handle their tasks on shore, navigate any river, and travel on land. [video shows tractor on land, in river; logo on vehicle reads Kareliya LS-120]

But no less important is the fact that two collectives numbering many thousands of people have caught their second wind, together with their brainchild. This might mean that neighboring enterprises do not have to scream for help just yet. Meanwhile, Russia's rivers and lakes might heave a sigh of relief.

The ecological complex still has to undergo tests in various climatic zones and under diverse conditions. Let us hope they are successful.

Acheivement of Aircraft Industry Assessed

PM1706140592 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1120 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Video report from the "Do We Need Wings?" documentary]

[Excerpt] [Video starts with shot of Philippine Airlines jet] [Reporter] The aircraft industry and its achievements reflect the worldwide level of scientific development. By developing high-speed communications between countries, aviation makes the world a smaller place and unites scientists, designers, and engineers to solve the complex problems of society's development. The pictures you are looking at were shot at exhibitions and international airshows in recent years—in the skies over Moscow and in France, Singapore, India, and Britain—where specialists and spectators alike watched and studied with interest the aircraft and helicopters developed by our fellow countrymen.

But, unfortunately, at this difficult time we have forgotten that Russia was and still is a great aviation power—the first to build aircraft, the first to travel in space. The Su-27 and MiG-29 are the most modern fighters currently in service. Both these aircraft enjoy superb aerodynamic design and reliable engines. No, these are not quotations from our newspapers, but comments made by the American pilot and journalist David North of AVIATION WEEK after flying the aircraft. We would recall that the MI-26 is the world's most powerful helicopter, able to carry payloads of up to 20 tonnes. The Su-27 has set 27 world records for rate of climb. And then there are the famous "Ruslan" and "Mriya." So we do have things to be proud of. And our civil aircraft—such as the Il-96-300, which should have entered service some time ago—wouldn't be so bad if they weren't let down by their engines and electronics.

Time goes by and the situation in the world changes. Today there is no need to produce military aircraft in the same numbers as before. Conversion, which now affects various defense industry sectors, poses problems for many design bureaus and plants. What should they produce and in what numbers? How should they utilize their production capacity? Where will their orders come from? And, above all, how will they hang on to development teams that have been built up over decades? After all, it's no secret that military aviation has been an engine of progress for transport aviation, civil aviation, and space too. These are not the kinds of enterprises to be producing pots and frying pans. What is the opinion of one of our leading designers on this? [video shows M.P. Simonov, general designer of the Sukhoy Design Bureau]

I can't help thinking that enterprises like yours with very great potential and highly qualified employees should be producing high-tech output—if I can put it that way. What's your attitude to that?

[Simonov] Well, my attitude is that of a normal person. Naturally, if a collective has built up know-how and an ability to do the job over long years, decades—since 1932—and is able to develop equipment for defense purposes to an excellent standard comparable with the West, then it would be simply absurd and criminal not to make use of such a potential at this difficult time. We have to work—we have to do the kind of work that the collective is able to do. The most valuable thing is the collective's experience and its knowledge. And this has to be made use of. So it's quite natural that aircraft makers should produce either aircraft or, as you rightly say, products of a very high technical standard and technological complexity. Unfortunately, conversion in this country is taking a very unusual form—it's not been done like this anywhere else in the world. We're conducting an experiment which can be likened to a surgeon having to operate on his own heart. What do I mean by that? Perhaps it would be better to go in for de-ossification rather than conversion. For instance, the Kirov Plant developed an excellent, small-scale tractor which is very much in demand at the moment from agriculture and private farmers—but it's only just entering production. Either this tractor should have been designed and brought into production years earlier—six years earlier—or we should have run down tank production more smoothly. The situation is the same in the aviation industry.

[Reporter] But what is to be done with our armaments—particularly our combat aircraft?

[Simonov] We need defense equipment today—it's a very valuable commodity and everybody wants it. What's more, everyone wants good equipment.

[Reporter] Defense sufficiency.

[Simonov] Defense sufficiency, yes, but with the best weapons for the least money. So the most correct form of conversion would be to properly organize sales of our weapons abroad. [passage omitted] [video ends with shot of Simonov being interviewed and shows various aircraft, including shot of jet taking off from a ski-jump carrier]

Labor Ministry Predicts Emigration To Increase

OW1606184992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1637 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Deputy Minister of Labor of the Russian Federation Igor Khalevinskiy believes labor emigration from Russia will increase. Khalevinskiy attributes this to the continuing economic recession and the threat of mass unemployment. Speaking at a press conference in Moscow Tuesday [16 June], he said that in preparation for this intergovernmental agreements with Germany and Finland have already been signed, and the specifics of agreements to send citizens to work in Belgium and other countries are being worked out.

Khalevinskiy also said that among those who want to work abroad are highly qualified specialists, many of whom know foreign languages. At the same time, he said, the ministry is working to create better conditions for specialists in this country to prevent the drain from harming the country's economy.

In an interview with IF [INTERFAX] Khalevinskiy did not rule out the possibilty that officers who were laid off in the latest significant reductions in the armed forces of Russia and other CIS countries, may become "soldiers of fortune". The Ministry of Labor, he said, has information about attempts to recruit them into the French Foreign Legion. In order to avoid such developments , the Deputy Minister said, Russia will need foreign countries' aid in creating retraining centers for servicemen similar to those being already created under the bilateral German-Russian agreement.

Trade Union Threatens Action Over Cash Crisis

PM1906085792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Jun 92 First Edition p 1

[ITAR-TASS report from "News" column: "Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia Ultimatum"]

[Text] "The inability of the Russian tripartite commission to regulate social and labor conflicts effectively forces us to look for other ways to tackle urgent problems," Igor Klochkov, chairman of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia [FITUR], told an ITAR-TASS correspondent. He was commenting on the results of the first session of FITUR's Collective Action Coordinating Committee.

Expressing the wishes of the FITUR member organizations, he said, the Coordinating Committee was demanding that the government issue and implement a pinpoint schedule for the provision of cash to the regions to clear arrears in the payment of wages, pensions, benefits, and grants. By 1 July the Cabinet of Ministers is required to guarantee the solvency of enterprises and organizations which have fallen into debt and to implement social measures forthwith to protect the population from any further decline in its living standards due to increased prices for energy sources. "If these and other demands affecting the interests of working people, regardless of occupation, are ignored," the federation leader remarked, "the Coordinating Committee will call on all FITUR member organizations to mount a Russia-wide protest action."

Social Partnership Offered

OW1906214592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1846 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Federation of Independent Trade Unions [FITUR] of Russia Proposes forming a Russian assembly of social partnership with employers. The assembly's first session is set for July 8 in Moscow. Leaders of regional trade unions, members of the FITUR and representatives and directors of enterprises will attend the meeting. Statements will be made on the presidential decrees on bankruptcy, privatization, tax and price policies.

In an interview with "IF" [INTERFAX] the Chairman of the council of FITUR Igor Klochkov said that the association will not be an alternative to the trilateral committee which has shown its incompetence. Klochkov is certain tha the committee can be revived if it is headed by the First Deputy Chairman of the government.

Government Establishes Extra-Budgetary Fund

OW2306212892 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1919 GMT 23 Jun 92

[From the 24 June "Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian government has begun the establishment of an extra-budgetary investment fund to finance priority programs for industrial development. The Ministry of Economics told INTERFAX that the fund will be financed by the government and foreign investors.

Economics Ministry experts say that enterprises "operating on the territory of the Russian Federation" could possibly be hit with an additional profit tax. The government plans to use those resources as an additional source of financing for the fund. According to preliminary information, the tax "will not exceed 5%."

One highly-placed official in the Economics Ministry admitted to INTERFAX that the main purpose of the fund was to remove the Supreme Soviet's control over capital investment. The government's Ministry of Economics will have exclusive control over the disbursement of resources in the investment fund.

Although the size of the extra-budgetary investment fund has not yet been determined, the Economics Ministry official said that the fund "will significantly exceed the amount of budgetary resources allocated for capital investment in industry.

Annual Industrial Output Decreases by 13%

LD2306161192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya
Ostankino Television First Program Network
in Russian 0800 GMT 23 Jun 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Summary] [Announcer] Annual industrial output in Russia is down by 13 percent, with the oil and gas sectors particularly hard-hit. And after several months of stability, output of coal in the Kuzbass is beginning to drop. During June the shortfall to customers was about 1 million tonnes.

[Correspondent N. Chirkov] The Chernigovets mine near Kemerovo has asked the local railways, its main customer, to accept 1,920 wagonloads less coal in July. The reason: their inability to pay. Coal reserves at the mine have meanwhile swollen to about 300,000 tonnes. Chernigovets became a joint-stock company six months ago, which has led to greater efficiency in search of profits to plow back into the business. But although it delivers its coal on time, its mainly state-sector purchasers are virtually insolvent—which combined with the cash shortage in the region is damaging its financial health and preventing it from acquiring desperately needed lubricants and other consumables. Output in the Kuzbass overall could drop by 10 million tonnes this year, which is bound to have a knock-on effect in the steel and power industries among others.

Oil, Gas Sectors Hard Hit

OW1906213792 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1845 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The State Statistics Committee (Goskomstat) of the Russian Federation said in a special report to the government and Parliament that in the first five months of 1992 production was down by 13.2%. In May alone production fell off by 15% as compared with last year.

The report said that in the last five months 168 million tons of oil was mined in Russia, 13% less than last year. The monthly fall in the production of oil from January to May was over 1%, in the production of gasoline over 8%, and over 5% for diesel fuel.

The average daily production at the gas mining firms in western Siberia began to decrease by 2% in April, and by 6% in May.

The situation was critical in other areas of industry as well: production of piping fell off by 25% in the five month period, chemical and petrochemical production was just 67-91% of what it was last year, production of lumber was off by 10%, and the production of construction materials down by 7-12%. The production of food products is constantly decreasing.

Feed Grain Imported in Exchange for Gas

PM2206115892 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 20 Jun 92 First Edition p 3

[Unattributed report under the rubric "The Government Has Resolved": "Gas There, Grain Here"]

[Text] The Russian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and the Committee for Grain Products of the Ministry of Trade and Material Resources have been tasked with urgently concluding contracts to enable the country to receive some 100,000 tonnes of feed grain within two months—to supply Moscow Oblast. The deliveries will take place on the strength of the export of 500 million cubic meters of natural gas, as part of the 1992 export quota.

The natural gas exporter GVP [expansion unknown] "Gazeksport" is granted permission as an exception (by agreement with the Central Bank of Russia) to leave 48 percent of its currency revenue in accounts in foreign banks in order to pay for the grain to be purchased and the transportation costs.

Resolution To Auction Unused Export Quotas

PM2306103792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Jun 92 First Edition p 5

["Official Section" text of 14 June 1992 Russian Federation Government Resolution No. 396 "On the Sale of Export Quotas Set for State Needs"]

[Text] In order to partially amend and amplify the 31 December 1991 Russian Federation Government Resolution No. 90 and to improve the effectiveness of state regulation of exports and ensure the forecast level of currency receipts, unconditional implementation of Russian Federation intergovernmental agreements on trade and economic cooperation, and consistent transition to a market system of distribution of export quotas to be implemented in accordance with the procedure laid down by the aforementioned resolution, the Russian Federation government rules that:

1. The Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations is to be authorized to carry out a quarterly sale on a competition or auction basis of unused export quotas in the event of manufacturing enterprises' failure to conclude contracts for the supply of products for export for state needs or in the event of the failure to carry out the aforementioned supplies.

2. The Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations is to establish the procedure for holding competitions and auctions that ensure publicity and equal participation conditions for Russian business entities irrespective of the form of ownership.

This procedure is to further extend to all quotas, on top of regional quotas and producers' quotas allocated by the Russian Federation Economics Ministry after this resolution is issued.

3. The Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations is to provide the Russian Federation Economics Ministry, Russian Federation Trade and Material Resources Ministry, Russian Federation Fuel and Energy Ministry, and other interested ministries and departments with monthly information on the results of competition and auction sales for the purposes of the ongoing adjustment of the distribution of export quotas for supplies for state needs.

4. This resolution enters into effect the moment it is published.

[Signed] B. Yeltsin.

Ruble Exchange Decree, Settlements Pondered

PM2406103592 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 23 Jun 92 p 2

["Our Commentary" by I. Savvateyeva: "Major Shocks in Store for the Ruble"]

[Text] Last week Boris Yeltsin signed two decrees intended to create conditions for the ruble's convertibility and its strengthening.

The decree "On Partial Amendments to the Procedure for Mandatory Sale of Parts of Foreign Currency Earnings and for Levying Export Duties" abolishes the requirement that exporters sell to the state 60 percent of their foreign currency earnings at a "special commercial exchange rate," being only 50 percent of the market rate. The old rules were being regularly broken. According to experts' estimates, some $20-25 billion were being deposited with banks abroad each year. (The government claims that the amount is less than $10 billion. In any case, the amounts are impressive when compared with the amount of aid we expect from the IMF.)

As of 1 July 50 percent of foreign currency earnings will be sold by exporters on the foreign currency market at a rate—and I quote—"set by the Central Bank on the basis of the supply and demand" prevailing at that market. In other words, the Central Bank will set an average market rate for the sale of rubles [R] at various exchanges and will publish it daily, as Deputy Minister of Finance Andrey Vavilov explained to us. Or at least every other day. Then the Ministry of Finance will purchase foreign currency from the Central Bank to cover budget expenditures.

The planned mechanism is strictly market-governed in principle. The only question is: How market-governed will the set rate be? Commercial structures have great doubts whether it really will be. "The real rate will still not be set," according to the divergent opinion among business circles today. Sergey Vatkin, deputy chairman of the Credit Bank Board, reminded us that the Central Bank and the government have repeatedly insisted that the rate must be set at R80 to the dollar. In view of this, according to Vatkin, the authorities are hardly likely to set the real rate, which has been falling recently and, according to Sergey Yuryevich, has already dropped to R140 to the dollar at the latest auctions. People at the Credit Bank are convinced that this is not the bottom line, because the real rate today is at least R200 to the dollar. There is simply not enough available cash to set it.

Unless the producers and the authorities find a common language on this issue after 1 July, even more deals will be struck "on the side": Some settlements will be effected in "live foreign currency," bypassing the Russian banks, while growing dissatisfaction with the foreign currency policy will drive exporters to even more active shipment of foreign currency abroad. Briefly speaking, everything will depend on the way the uniform commercial rate will be set.

Yeltsin's second decree, aimed at strengthening the ruble, envisages "transition to world standards in settlements with republics of the former USSR" and the de facto elimination of the single ruble zone. This means that henceforth the amount of commodities exported from Russia to CIS states will be no greater than the amount of commodities imported from them. The last straw prompting the adoption of this decision was the credit emission of 500 billion [currency not specified] recently undertaken by Ukraine. This sum of 500 billion equals one-half of Russia's monthly GNP. If this money suddenly floods the Russian market, prices there will just about double.

In line with the decree, Russian enterprises will be allowed to open grivna accounts in, say, Ukraine, with Ukrainian enterprises opening ruble accounts in Russia. The Ministry of Finance promises that exchange rates for the ruble into CIS states' currencies will be set in the very near future.

But this healthy and certainly theoretically correct market idea could yet again come up against the problem of its immediate implementation. The decree's implementation will require the establishment of clearing relations between the republics and this, in its turn, will require the introduction of a very complex and unwieldy system of electronic settlements. Russia and the other CIS states are hardly technically prepared to take such a step. Specialists express serious doubts: If nowadays money takes one, two, and even three months to get from Russia to Ukraine and back again, will the introduction of clearing settlements not end up in simply destroying all ties?

Be that as it may, the measures envisaged by the two decrees were due—and maybe overdue—a long time ago. The only question is whether the government and the Central Bank will manage to implement them.

Court Requests CPSU Access to Archives

LD2306161592 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Zorkin, chairman of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, has sent the Russian president a letter asking him to permit the representatives of the CPSU and the RSFSR Communist Party to have access to the party archives. He also thinks they need to be allocated funds to cover their expenses incurred in preparing for the session of the Constitutional Court on 7 July.

Incidentally, both sides will be allocated special premises in the court building itself. As Malyshev, head of the Constitutional Court's press center, told the newspaper KURANTY, quite a few analytical articles and forcasts have appeared in the press on the eve of this big trial. However, certain articles could be viewed as an attempt to put pressure on the court.

The press service of the Constitutional Court draws our attention to the fact that expectations that the Constitutional Court will be transformed into an international tribunal judging the Communist Party or into a trial of its leaders do not accord with the facts.

Kuptsov To Attend Hearing

LD2306172892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1344 GMT 23 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow June 23 TASS—Former first secretary of the Russian Communist Party Valentin Kuptsov will represent the party at a session of the Constitutional Court which will discuss the decrees of the Russian president banning the Soviet Communist Party and its Russian branch.

Kuptsov told reporters on Tuesday [23 June] he still considers himself to be the first secretary of the party "as no one has relieved me of the duties". He said at present he is working "in one of the funds", but gave no further details.

Hard-line communists are intensively preparing for the session of the Constitutional Court to be held on July 7, according to Ivan Rybkin, coordinator of the "Communists of Russia" parliamentary group.

Speaking about the recent hard-line rallies near the Moscow TV centre which violated public order and attempted to seize the TV building, Rybkin said that parliamentarians Sergey Baburin and Gennadiy Sayenko who were leading the furious crowd of people "acted as true patriots".

CPSU Members Appeal to Constitutional Court

PM2206121992 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Jun 92 p 1

["Appeal to Russian Federation Constitutional Court" adopted by 13 June conference of members of CPSU Central Committee]

[Text] We, members of the CPSU Central Committee, having discussed the Russian Federation Constitutional Court's decision of 26 May 1992, deem unlawful the amalgamation of two entirely autonomous petitions—on the constitutional nature of Russian President B.N. Yeltsin's decrees on the CPSU and the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Communist Party, and on the unconstitutional nature of the CPSU. This decision transforms the upcoming court hearings from a legal into a political event and calls into question an objective examination of the matter within the framework of the law.

The communists are confident of the rightness of their cause and are ready for any political process, but they categorically object to an approach which flouts elementary legal norms. We are forced to defend the party in an atmosphere of mounting anticommunist hysteria and an information blockade. We demand that equitable conditions be ensured for both sides in the preparation and hearing of the case.

M.S. Gorbachev, V.A. Ivashko, and V.A. Kuptsov have been appointed representatives of the party during the upcoming investigation without consultation with the CPSU or the RSFSR Communist Party. CPSU Central Committee members take the view that M.S. Gorbachev has neither a political nor a moral right to represent the party inasmuch as he betrayed it.

We appeal to the Russian Federation Constitutional Court to include the following as representatives of our party: L.E. Annus, S.I. Gurenko, A.A. Denisov, G.A. Zyuganov, A.N. Maltsev, K.A. Nikolayev, A.A. Prigarin, A.P. Rubiks, V.V. Sekretaryuk, and V.S. Chertishchev.

Adopted by conference of CPSU Central Committee members 13 June 1992.

‘Address to All Communists’ Adopted at Plenum

PM2206120592 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Jun 92 p 1

[Unattributed report: “Address to Communists”]

[Text] An “Address to All Communists” was adopted at the CPSU Central Committee Plenum. It notes that a continuation of the policy which is being implemented by the country’s current government will lead to a nationwide catastrophe. This can be forestalled only by powerful opposition by the working class, the peasantry, and the working intelligentsia. The communist movement can and must organize and motivate this working people’s resistance and prevent it from deteriorating into a blind mutiny.

The CPSU Central Committee supports the activities of the new communist parties and of all Communists who remain politically active in other ways. At the same time, the address points out, the majority of Communists demand a restoration of the CPSU as a single mass party which would unify all the detachments of the communist movement. As consistent advocates of a rule-of-law state, the CPSU Central Committee and other party structures have complied with the decrees by the authorities of several republics banning the CPSU, and have temporarily suspended their activities pending a legal examination of this question. Today, however, when the authorities are trying to turn the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation into an instrument of reprisals against the CPSU and the Russian Communist Party, and when an unprecedented anticommunist campaign is being launched, the party and its Central Committee do not have the right to remain idle.

In this context the CPSU is calling on Communists, jointly with all healthy public and patriotic forces, to counter the further disintegration of the economy and impoverishment of people’s lives, to protect and uphold the political and social gains of the working people, to oppose the privatization of plants and factories and the sale and purchase of land and its mineral resources, to support the soviets by all legal means, and to seek to ensure majority representation in them of workers, peasants, and the working intelligentsia. It is also proposed to work actively towards the restoration of the Soviet Union and to resolutely combat any manifestations of interethnic strife. It is recommended to establish an integrated fund based on party dues and other voluntary receipts to provide material support for day-to-day work and for mass media which express the interests of the party and the working people.

Communists ‘Resolute To Revive’ CPSU

OW1806182892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1639 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Leader of the group which initiated the CPSU plenum held June 13, Editor-in-Chief of the “Glasnost” newspaper Yuri Isyumov confirmed in a press conference in Moscow today that communists are resolute to revive the CPSU and overthrow democrats. He assured that the Communist principles “will live for ever”.

A CPSU member, Konstantin Nikolayev, believes that over 6 million communists “are waiting for the CPSU revival”. Meanwhile the participants of the plenum feel that the CPSU “may not be restored to its former state”, although it will fight for power with “the current semi-legal rule”.

At the press conference communists accused Russia’s Constitutional Court of trying to turn the discussion on the constitutional rights of the Communist party into a political trial. The Communist Alliance’s leader Alexey Prigarin said that if they fail in the Constitutional Court, communists may choose to either work illegally or become members of other parties of Communist orientation.

Communists Assail Yeltsin Decree Banning CPSU

OW2306212592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1859 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tuesday [23 June] at a press conference the co-chairman of the parliamentary faction “Communists of Russia” Ivan Rybkin declared that the accusations of preparing a coup and of illegal activity of the CPSU and the communist party of the Russian Soviet Federal Socialist Republic are groundless. According to Rybkin, the decision on the legacy of Yeltsin’s decrees declaring the ceasing of the CPSU’s and communist party of the

Russian Federation's activity "will depend upon the position occupied by the Constitutional Court".

The organizers of the press conference reported that they addressed international organizations expressing protest in respect to the decision of the Constitutional Court to unite the petitions of the Russian deputies demanding to verify Yeltsin's decrees which state the non-constitutional character of the CPSU.

The first secretary of the Central Committee of the forbidden communist party of Russian Federation Valentin Kuptsov, who attended this press conference, noted "that the majority of communists is waiting for the decision of the Constitutional Court". Kuptsov doubts whether the former General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU will appear in the Constitutional Court though he believes that Gorbachev must take the responsibility for his activity at this post.

[In a related report carried in the same INTERFAX (IF) facsimile transmission received via Tokyo KYODO at 1859 GMT, INTERFAX cites Kuptsov predicting that Russian communists "will reunite within six months."

[The report says: "There are nearly half a million communists in Russia today who 'are active in politics', the First Secretary of the banned Russian Communist Party Valentin Kuptsov said in an interview with 'IF' Tuesday. He expressed the hope that if the Constitutional Court repeals President Yeltsin's decree ending the activities of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, its numbers 'will grow significantly'.

["Kuptsov said 'if the political events are successful, there will be a unification plenum of all the communist parties and a single Russian Communist Party will be formed'. He called the possibility of the reanimation of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union 'an illusion'. 'It is anti-constitutional to create a party which would function on the territory of the Commonwealth states', Kuptsov said."]

Civic Union Center Bloc Formation Considered

924C1710A Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Jun 92 p 2

[Report by Irina Gulchenko: "Uniting for Creation"]

[Text] Disintegration processes in society have assumed such proportions and habitual a nature that all attempts at unification evoke mistrust. Yet the capacity of political forces for stepping beyond disagreements of the moment and finding points in common in creative activity pertaining to the reforming of Russia—this is seen to be the essence of the Civic Union bloc which is taking shape by the leaders of the parties forming it. The theme of a change in the logic of revolutionary transformations of society, as basically destructive, for a logic of gradual, but profound and professional reforms implemented in a stable atmosphere, in the absence of abrupt leaps forward and descents to extremes, has been discussed in the Moscow Press Club. Vasiliy Lipitskiy, chairman of the Free Russia People's Party, Aleksandr Vladislavlev, co-chairman of the All-Russia Renewal Union, and Valeriy Khomyakov, chairman of the Democratic Party of Russia Executive Committee, took part in the meeting. A. Vladislavlev distinguished three main forces in the country, which could today realistically lead to development and creation: enterprise directors and managers, the stratum of fledgling entrepreneurs and the heads of administration and other leaders locally. In his opinion, it is these people who know the intricacies of actual work, are professionals and can adopt competent decisions. Despite the fact that they inevitably bear the flaws of the illogical economy of past years, they can now no longer fail to become entrepreneurs, and they can no longer be called conservatives. A. Vladislavlev disagreed with the assertion that the Renewal Union is a directors' party. The body of directors constitutes no more than 30 percent here.

The parties advocating the creation of the Civic Union firmly intend to obtain a majority of the votes in parliament at the next elections, although they have many supporters among the present deputies also. The recent changes in the government won approval also.

Seeing the stability of society as the basis for creative work, Civic Union totally rejects the holding of referenda. Free Russia People's Party organizations locally have already begun explanatory work, which will continue. In A. Vladislavlev's opinion, political forces which lack the resolve to assume responsibility for political choice are attempting for the umpteenth time to entrust it to the people, which is the wrong policy. In the speakers' opinion, Civic Union, as a moderate-center bloc, could stabilize the political life of society on the basis of the unification of Russia's reforming-creative forces.

'Birth' of 'Powerful Opposition' Cited

PM2406093192 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 23 Jun 92 p 2

[Report by R. Zaripov: "You'll Get Nothing by Waiting. Distribution of Shares Promised in July"]

[Text] As of 1 July all of Russia's state enterprises will be transferred to joint-stock ownership. The relevant presidential decree has already been prepared, according to Vladimir Shumeyko, first vice premier of the Russian Federation Government. The switch to joint-stock ownership does not mean that enterprises' debts will be automatically written off. The Central Bank of Russia should provide credits worth 500 billion rubles for reciprocal settlements. The actual debts will be divided into three categories: Debts owed to enterprises in CIS countries, intrasector debts, and debts owed by enterprises to the state.

This news was announced at Sunday's [21 June] forum of public forces which founded the new "Civil Union" political bloc. Its founding fathers are the Free Russia People's Party (better known as Rutskoy's party), the democratic Party of Russia (Travkin's), the All-Russian "Renewal" Union (Volskiy's), and the "Smena—New Policy" parliamentary faction. According to the documents distributed on the eve of the event, this is the birth of a powerful opposition bloc which disagrees with the current government's policy and is capable of taking on "the responsibility of government." It must be said that the majority of speakers confirmed the creation of a new and constructive opposition. The only exceptions were Arkadiy Volskiy, president of the Russian Industrialists' Union, and Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy himself. Normally distinguished by rigidity of formulations, Aleksandr Vladimirovich [Rutskoy] refused to have anything to do with the word "opposition" which is obviously at odds with his being part of the executive power (something which, incidentally, did not prevent him from totally demolishing the present cabinet's actions in his report).

What is the need for creating the "Union?" Arkadiy Volskiy compared our society to a herd rushing toward an abyss. The "Civil Union" must take on the role of horsemen driving the herd away from the precipice. These allegorical words were followed by down-to-earth statistics. The slump in production is out of control and looks "much more serious than the slump in America during the depression in the thirties." "Most, if not all, enterprises in industry, transport, and communications" are bankrupt. Unemployment has become a reality, with more than 600,000 citizens on the register of unemployed. Therefore, the reforms need amendment and the crisis must have electoral repercussions.

One of the documents adopted at the forum ("Area of the Civil Union's Accord") is essentially a program for extrication from the crisis. As Arkadiy Ivanovich told me, he is counting on a conciliatory policy by the government and primarily by Gaydar, a meeting with whom should take place this week.

'Vague Account' of 'Civil Union' Aims Given

PM2406091592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Georgiy Ivanov-Smolenskiy: "Civil Union: Opposition, but a Constructive One"]

[Text] Last Sunday, 21 June, the "Civil Union" forum of sociopolitical forces was held in the Hall of Columns of the House of Unions. The main organizers of the new bloc were the "Free Russia" People's Party, the all-Russian "Renewal" Union, the Democratic Party of Russia, the "Smena-New Policy" parliamentary faction, and the Russian Youth League.

It must be admitted that the "Civil Union" forum revived memories of the times of great and solemn congresses. And it was by no means because it took place in the white marble Hall of Columns, now accessible to many, and not because of the high ranks of Vice President A. Rutskoy, S. Filatov, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet, and V. Shumeyko, first vice premier of the government, who honored it with their presence. Its similarity to previous events was the result of the fact that while, it is to be supposed, they were aware of the aims and principles of the bloc they are creating, its organizers gave a rather vague account of them to those present. That is, it was obvious to the naked eye, as they say, whom to join and with whom to form a bloc, but on what basis—that was not stated in full detail at the forum.

The official press release stated that the "Civil Union" is "prepared to support the development of a market economy oriented toward man, a strong democratic state, and a constitutional order oriented toward the separation and balance of powers." It also adds that "the policy of the present Russian Government is not promoting the implementation of these fundamental aims" and that the "Civil Union is prepared to assume this task, acting as an opposition or bearing government responsibility." It is true that the forum itself repeatedly added to the word "opposition" another word no less current today—"constructive." But it was rather complicated trying to understand exactly what this constructiveness was. Virtually every one of the speakers, paying tribute, as N. Travkin put it, "to the not completely fallen government and president," once again in the spirit of previous forums set about speaking "about his own concerns, about sore points."

Resolutely dissociating himself from the "stories which are being whipped up about the shadow cabinet," A. Volskiy spoke about the need to defend the interests of industrialists and businessmen. Citing copiously from Mikhail Zhvanetskiy and collecting no less applause than that satirical performer, he said that "since time immemorial Russia has rested on the peasant." Defining the government as the "main destabilizing factor" from which "you cannot and will not get any sense," I. Muravyev, leader of the "Smena" faction, said that "Yeltsin and his close entourage only understand force..." In brief, when after the intermission the vice president and first vice president appeared in the Hall of Columns both could only refer trustingly to the fact that "a stabilization program was probably submitted before the intermission." (Incidentally, this is not the first time we have to ask whether the vice president, who heads an opposition party and has now joined a bloc in far from every respect in solidarity with the president, is not displaying constructive opposition toward himself).

Actually, knowing many of the bloc's members as energetic people who have frequently declared their loyalty to centrism and constructiveness, it must be supposed that in the very near future the "Civil Union" will, as the forum said, submit for public approval a program for the normalization of the economy and social stabilization. It is a pity (both for the public and for the members of the new bloc) that this did not happen at the forum itself.

Uniting but explaining only later around what you were uniting and why is something the public in our country has seen before.

Gdlyan Addresses People's Party of Russia

MK2406072192 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Jun 92 p 2

[Report by Yelena Tregubova: "People's Party of Russia Has Decided. While Approving Policy of Reforms, It Will Not Support President 'On Certain Points'"]

[Text] "A new stage of the power struggle has begun," Telman Gdlyan declared at the congress of the People's Party of Russia [PPR]. In the opinion of the PPR cochairman, three forces in the country can aspire to power today: the democrats represented by the "New Russia" bloc of parties (the PPR, the Peasant Party, the Social Democratic Party, the Social Liberal Party, the Social Liberal Association, and "Young Russia"); the alliance of communists and national patriots in the form of "Working Russia" and the "Russian National Assembly"; and the second echelon of the nomenklatura, whose formation was completed, so Gdlyan is convinced, at the constituent congress of the "Civil Union." Gdlyan specially stipulated that "Democratic Russia" in "its present form will not be of interest, since the players in the persons of the present leadership have turned this movement into a state structure at the level of a puppet of the government," and the PPR is reckoning on attracting "Democratic Russia's" regional structures into its own bloc.

The PPR cochairman believes that all three abovementioned forces are already quite organized, and almost everything now depends on the president's choice. "If Yeltsin wants to rely on the 'Civil Union,' then of course the party and economic aktiv will win," Gdlyan said, "and that will be a betrayal of the democrats thanks to whom the president acceded to power."

Speakers called the joining of Travkin's party with the "Civil Union" a "severe blow against the democrats." In their opinion, this must inevitably end in lonesome Travkin remaining with the board of his party in the middle of the military-industrial complex, while his entire party will go off to "New Russia." The national patriots and communists, so Gdlyan believes, also pose a considerable danger because of their aggressiveness and mobility, since "the people's material position has only to deteriorate a little further, and the communists will lead the people not to Ostankino but onto the barricades, sweeping aside all democrats and also the president himself."

It is the conviction of the congress participants that the new makeup of the government proves that the president is continuing to gamble precisely on the second echelon of the party nomenklatura, which by its nature is not interested in implementing reforms.

The leaders of the PPR proposed declaring the party's withdrawal into partial opposition to the president, warning that, unless Yeltsin changes his policy in the very near future, the "New Russia" bloc will form a "full democratic opposition." But the proposal elicited an objection from the congress participants: One of the speakers reminded them that "someone in partial opposition is just like someone a little bit pregnant." PPR Bureau Member Aleksey Surkov, on the contrary, declared: "I criticize Yeltsin and even strike him a swinging blow for the distortions of his line, but if this wording is adopted, I will leave the party..."

The congress resolution records that the PPR "does not support" the president on certain points, while on the whole approving of his policy of reforms.

Party Leaders Urge Law on Political Status

PM1706135192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Jun 92 First Edition p 5

["Appeal by the Leaders of Political Parties and Movements to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet": "Enshrining the Multiparty System in Law"]

[Text] The formation of a democratic, rule-of-law state based on absolute respect for human rights and freedoms and on the separation of legislative, executive, and judicial authority and the formation of a civil society in Russia are closely bound up with the rebuilding of a multiparty system.

The implementation of political reform is being held up by the absence in Russian legislation of a law on political parties and a law on elections to organs of state power—the latter is to ensure the normal functioning of a multiparty system.

We are convinced that the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet should make the utmost efforts to adopt the aforementioned laws this year. Discussion and examination of the draft laws should, in our opinion, be conducted as part of a single package and with the participation of representatives of political parties and movements.

[signed] L. Ponomarev, "Democratic Russia" movement; G. Sklyar, cochairman of the Socialist Party of the Working People; V. Lipitskiy, Free Russia People's Party; A. Chuyev, Russian Christian Democratic Party; A. Braginskiy, Russian Party of Democratic Transformations; A. Vladislavlev, All-Russia "Renewal" Alliance; V. Lysenko, Republican Party of Russia; A. Ogorodnikov, Christian Democratic Union of Russia; V. Zolotarev, Party of Constitutional Democrats of Russia; S. Baburin, Russian National Union; V. German, Russian Party of Free Labor; N. Travkin, Democratic Party of Russia; A. Kiselev, Russian Movement for Democratic Reforms; B. Orlov, Social Democratic Party of Russia; V. Falko, Social Liberal Association of the Russian Federation; O. Borodin and T. Gdlyan, People's Party of Russia (cochairmen); V. Filin, Russian Social Liberal

Party; S. Shchetinin, Young Russia Union; M. Salye, Free Democratic Party of Russia; and Yu. Chernichenko, Peasant Party of Russia.

Party of Economic Freedom Presents Policy Goals

PM2206141592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Georgiy Ivanov-Smolenskiy report under "Events and Comments" rubric: "Party of Economic Freedom Appears on the Scene"]

[Text] The presentation of the Party of Economic Freedom [PEF] was held last Friday in the Polytechnical Museum building where the Russian Commodities and Raw Materials Exchange has its office. The choice of place for the presentation was not coincidental—as has already been written, the initiator and chairman of the PEF is Konstantin Borovoy, general manager at the Russian Commodities and Raw Materials Exchange, who has left all his entrepreneurial posts to do this.

Only the economic freedom of the citizens is capable of leading the country out of the impasse—it is only with the help of this lifebelt that the country can be "fished out" of the present situation. The PEF organizers also see the outlines of its social base quite clearly—it is by no means just entrepreneurs of the new wave that are involved but also progressively minded leaders of industrial enterprises, highly skilled workers, and private farmers. Including the members of their families, the number of these people who understand the need for radical reforms is assessed at approximately 40 million.

Given that the potential base of the PEF will be formed by the most active and independently minded section of the country's population, its attitude toward the existing authorities is of great significance. Their position is loyalty to the president, a generally "understanding attitude," but an attitude critical of the government because of its inconsistency and mistakes.

The PEF deems it absolutely necessary to free the reforms from the "weights of a half-measure policy" which prevent them from progressing at the necessary rate.

What are these weights? First and foremost, according to the new party's founders, a monopoly system leading to "inflation of costs" and unequal prices, credit expansion, excessive taxes, rigidly defined privatization, mounting confrontation between the center and the regions, the unsatisfactory progress of conversion, and a decline in production. For these reasons the government's activity is deemed unsatisfactory today, and is seen as not corresponding to its program.

The top priority measures proposed include: Resolutely speeding up privatization, having provided a maximum diversity of options in this sphere in the light of specific local differences; pursuing an uncompromising struggle against monopolism in the economy and corruption in the state apparatus; and providing for all kinds of government support for entrepreneurial activity. The proposals to preserve a tough stance in respect of the budget while the burden of taxes is significantly alleviated diverge from the economic logic of the country's leadership. The excessive emphasis on the service function of the state and the government and the virtual refusal to grant it the right of choosing social and economic priorities is also questionable. The social and ecological section of the PEF's policy statement is based on the well-known and tested market and enterprise models.

Supreme Soviet

Mass Media Hearings Begin; Ostankino Discussed

PM2306150692 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 4

[Report by Valeriy Vyzhutovich: "Impotence Against Violence"]

[Text] As if to salvage the reputation of the Russian parliament, which was reluctant to give a legal evaluation of what happened at the "Ostankino" television studio last week, the Supreme Soviet Committee on the Mass Media held hearings 22 June "On the Threat to the Constitutional System in Connection With the Stepping Up of the Activity of Extremist Organizations."

Who could have imagined, only recently, that on a black day in our history there would be reason to talk not so much of fascism in Hitler's Germany, as of the danger of its emergence in present-day Russia.

The organizers of the hearings circulated an appeal from a number of Russian deputies to the president, asking him to "set up a special state commission to investigate the activity of the organs of executive power, and in particular the organs of protection of public order, which in effect connived at mass criminal acts aimed at destabilizing the situation and involving the use of violence and outrages on the part of the organizers of the gathering at Ostankino."

The appeal to the top man in the state was also dictated by the fact that no official reply has been received to requests to General Prosecutor Stepankov and Internal Affairs Minister Yerin to evaluate the actions of the Ostankino pickets. The explanations offered by Moscow Prosecutor Gennadiy Ponomarev to the participants in the hearings amounted to the following. City Hall had given permission for the action, but the demonstrators, violating a number of conditions imposed on them, repeatedly broke the law. On 15 and 19 June, the prosecutor reported, two criminal cases were instituted—for offering resistance to officers of the militia, and for kindling national strife.

"Why did the prosecutor's office not resolutely clamp down on a provocative action taking place under banners calling for the violent overthrow of the constitutional organs of power and inciting actions violating national equality?" The city prosecutor's answer to this question from Deputy Anokhin was as follows: The militia and the security organs are directly responsible for imposing order, and in this case they proved helpless. As if to support this conclusion, Yevgeniy Savostyanov, chief of the Russian Security Ministry Moscow Directorate, complained about the difficult position the capital's law enforcement organs are in: "When an investigator has two or three unsolved murders on his hands, he has no time for pickets."

Both the prosecutor and the security directorate chief emphasized in every way their political impartiality and their desire to serve only the law. So is the appeal "To the Russian People, To All the Peoples of the Soviet Union" in accordance with the law? Do the following lines from this appeal, for instance, fall within the framework of the Constitution?— "On 22 June, on the sad anniversary of the start of the Great Patriotic War, we will continue the war. We expect representatives of villages and cities at Ostankino at 1700 hours. Let us remember our national pride, Great Russians [velikorossy]!"

There were no official reports of unlawful actions by the pickets—that is how the leaders of the capital's law enforcement services explained their sluggishness. But television was carrying reports from Ostankino several times a day throughout the week, there were tens of millions of witnesses! What kind of reports were needed to enable firm power to be used? "We cannot bring ourselves to say," Oleg Poptsov, chairman of the Russian Television and Radio Company, noted on this score, "that in our country power as such is a mythical beast. Moreover the militia and prosecution organs are apparently waiting for the present authorities to be replaced, so that they can be quick to swear loyalty to the new ones." Equally sharp expressions were used by Yegor Yakovlev, chairman of the "Ostankino" television and radio company. "It has become obvious to me that the executive authority is negligible. If the mob had wanted to take the television center, it would have done so. It did not do so only because that was not part of its plans."

Apparently the hearings dragged on. I am not only talking about the parliamentary ones. We are sick of woebegone arguments between representatives of the executive and representatives of the legislature, instead of clear, decisive actions by both of them. Meanwhile what is happening—it has already begun—is a fusion of the basically criminal opposition of the mob with the parliamentary opposition. Let us remember, before it is too late: Hitler came to power by constitutional means.

'Misgivings' Over Journalists Noted

LD2306220492 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Video commentary by I. Zargaryan; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Parliamentary hearings on the mass media started at the Russian Supreme Soviet today. [video shows meetings in progress]

Opening the hearings, Nikolay Ryabov, chairman of the Soviet of the Republic, said that the deputies do not see it as their task to take reprisals against the press, yet the parliamentarians have many misgivings about journalists.

The passions which have been raging at Ostankino television in the past few days have in many ways determined the nature of the debates at the Supreme Soviet. In the opinion of many speakers, the television coverage of deputies' activities has not been objective, and television has failed to give the floor to the opposition.

In reply, Russian Vice Premier Mikhail Poltoranin said:

[Begin Poltaranin recording] When we talk today about distributing television air time or whatever else, what we see is an attempt by the opposition and the former structures which have taken Russia to the end of her tether to regain control over the mass media. If the opposition wants its own television, let it set up and register its own channel. For God's sake, be my guest, say and show there whatever you like, but remember not to violate the law on the press. [end recording] [video shows Poltoranin speaking from rostrum to meeting]

Yakovlev Comments

LD2306202892 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1700 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] The hearings on state policy in the sphere of mass media opened today at the Russian White House. In the opinion of Yegor Yakovlev, the head of the Ostankino television and radio company, it is impossible to talk about state policy in the sphere of mass media without taking into account what happened around Ostankino. The events of the last 10 days, he said, confirmed the fact that television today has not yet got any civilized way of influencing the public. According to Yegor Yakovlev, the rules of the company were adopted containing a line on a supervisory council. Yegor Yakovlev disagrees with claims put by the opposition since, as he asserts, representatives of the opposition took part in 25 Ostankino programs this year. As for live broadcasts, Yegor Yakovlev noted, nothing can be said here until it is guaranteed that representatives of the opposition will act in line with the Constitution.

Ostankino Events Cited

MK2306202992 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Jun 92 p 1

["A.Z." report under the "In Brief" rubric: "Russian Supreme Soviet Discusses Coup Threat"]

[Text] In parliamentary hearings yesterday the Russian Supreme Soviet discussed the threat of an anticonstitutional coup stemming, in the organizers' opinion, from Russian national-communists and, in particular, from those involved in picketing the "Ostankino" television center. Yegor Yakovlev, chairman of the television and radio company, has accused the law-enforcement organs of inaction. "The worthlessness of our executive power has become obvious to me," he declared. "If that mob had wanted to take the center, it would have done so, only this simply did not enter into its plans." What strikes Yegor Yakovlev as particularly dangerous is "the merging of this criminal group with the legal parliamentary opposition."

Session To Adopt Law on Intelligence

OW2306161792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1453 GMT 23 Jun 92

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" (DP) feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At the beginning of July, the Russian parliament is expected to adopt a law on intelligence, which will define the role of intelligence in the system of Russia's national security, Chairman of the Russian parliament's Committee for Defence and Security, Major-General Sergey Stepashin announced.

He told DP in an exclusive interview that following the division of the former KGB into the Ministry of Security and the intelligence service, the latter has been functioning only on the basis of Boris Yeltsin's decree. "The need to adopt a special law is obvious," said Stepashin.

He said that the leaders of the Russian intelligence service welcome the fact that the parliament approved the draft law on intelligence at the first reading.

The drafted law is of cardinal significance, said Stepashin. It ensures Russia's security, guarantees the implementation of the Helsinki Declaration on Human Rights and, finally, puts intelligence under permanent parliamentary control, he went on to say.

Stepashin also said that an extremely limited number of MPs [members of parliament] will be given access to the intelligence service's documents. The intelligence leaders' annual closed reports to parliament and permanent contacts with the Committee for Defence and Security will prevent the "hypothetical merger of MPs and the leaders of the intelligence service," he said.

CIS Interparliamentary Assembly Proposed

OW2306164492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1440 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The first plenary session of the inter-parliamentary assembly of the CIS has been proposed for late July-early August in Bishkek by the Presiduim of the Russian Federation's Supreme Soviet. As reported by the INTERFAX correspondent, the Presidium session has approved the line-up of the Russian 19-strong delegation to be led by the speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov.

At its 1st session the Assembly is expected to discuss six questions: the order of its work, the re-alignnment of economic legislation in the CIS members, proposals on legislative recommendations, the activities of the CIS parliaments in social protection, their role in developing relations between the CIS members, appeals for cooperation to Europarliament, European Council, and other inter-parliamentary organisations.

The session's draft of its order recognizes all the languages of the member-states as official and Russian as the working one for the documents.

Khasbulatov Opens Supreme Soviet Presidium

LD2306121592 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1800 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Presidium assembled as usual at 1500. Ruslan Imranovich Khasbulatov gave a short introductory address to open the session. He commented that on the one hand one can observe a thawing in international relations, and a lowering in the threshold of confrontation—with Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin's latest visit to the U.S. being one contributory factor; but on the other hand, there is a chill setting in regarding relations on the territory of the CIS. Given this, Ruslan Khasbulatov said, citizens of the Russian Federation are expecting their Supreme Soviet to respond promptly to all processes, and to increase social protection of its citizens.

Budget Commission Says Policy Thwarts Production

LD2306175192 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1639 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Moscow—Russian federation parliament's budget commission: The government has openly recognized the incapacity of the finance policy that it has pursued since January this year.

On June 23, while speaking at the parliamentary hearings on behalf of the parliament's commission in charge of the budget, taxes, plans and prices, in connection with Russian President Boris Yeltsin's state 1992 budget address on the budget system of Russian Federation in 1992 , Veniamin Sokolov, chairman of the budget subcommission, said: Alongside with recognition of the blind-alley image of his finance course, president did not offer any concrete alternative and his address deals only with the problem of keeping afloat. However, this commission of the parliament reckons that the government has a definite course: it purposefully aims at destruction of the production potential of the country.

Sokolov especially dwelt on financing development of private farms and said that despite a rise in their allocations from 1 billion roubles in 1991 to 34 billion roubles in 1992, in fact, a fall has taken place on the basis of a single farm. In his opinion, the total number of these farms will not exceed 150,000 in 1992, and, to raise one farm 10 to 15 million roubles is necessary, whereas one farm will receive only 250,000 roubles.

The real purchasing power, in Sokolov's opinion, of this sum will run only to 13,000 roubles if 1991. As the budget subcommission of the parliament reckons, even if all the limitations are removed which hinder the development of the private farms, they will supply by 2,000 A.D. only 4 per cent of the foodstuffs which are needed.

Pochinok Remarks

OW2306120592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1030 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Deputy Minister of Finance Andrey Vavilov has disclosed that the structure of the 1992 budget was affected by tho fact that 134.9 bn [billion] roubles were earmarked for servicing the debt of the former USSR. During parliamentary hearings on the budget message of the president on Tuesday [23 June] he specified that 81.9 bn of the sum will be spent on special car checks to compensate for the price rises. [sentence as received]

The chairman of the parliamentary budget committee Aleksandr Pochinok was surprised by the absence of representatives of the Central Bank and the Economy Ministry who were supposed to deliver their own reports. "This is all the more strange considering that we have global differences with the Economy Ministry on ways of calculating the rate of inflation", he said.

According to Mr. Pochinok, the report of the Economy Ministry that in the second quarter of the year prices went up by 28% as compared with the first one cannot be considered reliable.

Regional Affairs

Ryazan Residents Reluctant To Go Private

PM2206131992 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Jun 92 p 4

[PRAVDA/RIA/NOVOSTI correspondence report under the rubric "Briefly and Clearly"]

[Text] The president's adviser G. Starovoytova recently made an unofficial visit to Shatskiy Rayon in the Ryazan area.

Not wishing to meet the local authorities, she held a conversation with leaders of "Cherneyevskiy" State Farm, and the "Novyy Byt" and "Progress" Collective Farms.

The adviser enquired about the progress of land reform and the problem of reorganizing agricultural production. But above all she wanted to hear about how keenly peasants are vying with one another to become private farmers. To Galina Vasilyevna's great regret, no one could gladden her with such tidings. For the simple reason that so far in the region which has taken her interest not one collective farm member or state farm worker has wanted to become an individual farmer.

The muzhiks of Shatskiy Rayon are still scratching their heads: What was the reason for the visit of the "state lady" to their remote parts, and what "novelties" will follow in their chaotic lives after such a "lofty" visitation?

Ryazan Rally Protests Yeltsin Bankruptcy Decree

PM2206123992 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 18 Jun 92 p 2

[Correspondent V. Kolobov report: "Get Up Off Your Knees"]

[Text] Ryazan—The working people of Ryazan have again come out onto Victory Square. This time the Russian president's decree on bankruptcy was the "straw which broke the camel's back." The working people saw two dangers in this document for themselves, both of which are fatal—being passive bystanders while their own enterprise is sold to some moneybags and being thrown out onto the street after the auction.

The rally was attended by many representatives of the instruments plant. The selfsame plant in whose labor collective "democratic" moods and sympathy for Yeltsin reigned supreme in the past. This collective nominated V. Ryumin, presently Ryazan's chief "democrat," as a candidate people's deputy, who subsequently became head of the city's administration.

There were several tables among those participating in the rally, by which signatures were being collected for a referendum to remove V. Ryumin from this post and to deprive B. Yeltsin of his presidential powers.

The rally ended with the adoption of a constructive resolution. Its main item, in which the political path for a free Russia can be seen, is as follows: "The organs of people's power, that is the Soviets of People's Deputies, should be restored. Elections to the local organs of power on the basis of production and territorial districts should be conducted by the end of the year."

Checheniya Denies Connection With Mercenaries

LD2306203592 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1821 GMT 23 Jun 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Groznyy—Chechen Government refutes its connection with Chechen mercenaries involved in the Karabakh conflict on the part of Azerbaijan.

An official announcement by Chechen Government circulated on June 22 by the state information agency CHECHENPRESS also stresses: Chechen mercenaries safeguard roads, ensure transport movement security. All of them came over to Checheniya at their own initiative. It is not reported as to the number of mercenaries and their wages.

The Chechen leadership is striving to prevent participation of the republican citizens in the Karabakh conflict. With this aim in view the elders and national security officers conduct explanatory work in the cities and villages, the report says. As noted by some local experts, the Chechen Government recognized for the first time the fact of participating in the Karabakh conflict of Chechen henchmen. Previously analogous reports were refuted. For example, Checheniya President Dzhokhar Dudayev said at June 9 news conference that information on the involvement of Chechen volunteers in military action on the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh is a mere concoction.

Chechen Official on Special Agents' Activities

LD2306173892 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1249 GMT 23 Jun 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Groznyy—A member of the Chechen Parliament and of the Confederation of the Mountainous Peoples (CMP) believes that a broad network of Russia's special services agents is acting within the CMP structures.

On June 22 a member of the Chechen Parliament and of the Confederation of the Mountainous Peoples said Khasan Abumuslimov who headed the Chechen parliamentary delegation that visited Abkhazia to establish political contacts told PF [POSTFACTUM] that Russian agents are seeking by any means to prevent the unification of the Caucuses peoples, something which is sought by the confederation. Abumuslimov refused to say how he had managed to discover the existence of the agents network saying he was citing the CMP counterintelligence information.

Pacific Border District Sells Command Post

LD2306121192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] For 5 billion rubles, the command of the Pacific Border District sold the building and auxiliary premises of their reserve command post in the coastal village of Zavodskoy to a small enterprise. Upon sale the buildings at the post were cleared of communication equipment, arms, and other contents, ITAR-TASS reports. This unusual deal was prompted by two circumstances, explained Colonel Ivan Abushev, deputy commander of the district's engineering service. First, by the warming of the political climate in the Asia-Pacific region and second, by a lack of funds to equip a second command post and maintain it at full combat readiness.

Chita Region Military Airbase Goes on Sale

LD2106142692 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 0942 GMT 19 Jun 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] [no dateline as received] The Transbaykal military district is selling a former airbase, with residential quarters.

The military campus is located in the Olovyaninskii district in Chita region, near the railway station Khada-Bulak. The balance sheet value of the facilities and installations is R53 mln. They include a barracks, a soldiers' kitchen, a canteen for the pilots and servicing staff, an administrative building (headquarters), a first-aid point, two residential blocks with 60 apartments each, a dormitory, a patrols building, a vegetable storage, a warehouse accommodating 16 railway cars, 2 water pumps, a transformer substation, a technical and supervision installation, a power transmission line and a substation, a laundry, a sewage and a pump station with a collector, a boiler house, purification facilities, a waterway, thermal networks, adjacent roads, an engineering facility, a gravel (2.3x100 m.) and concrete (400x400 m) take-off and landing strips capable of accommodating helicopters and AN-26, AN-12 and AN-24 aircraft.

Silver 'Linings' in Far East Gold Prospects

LD2206192992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0320 GMT 22 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Klimentyev]

[Text] Vladivostok, 22 Jun—Geologists at the Far Eastern branch of the Russian Academy of Science aim to reestablish the Far East's position as Russia's principal source of gold. They have worked out new ways of prospecting for gold, telluric ores, and other precious metals. The laboratory of gold ore formations of the Far Eastern Geological Institute in Vladivostok has deciphered the nature of anomalous characteristics in native gold and even managed to simulate the cultivation of its crystals. Leading specialists at the institute are very interested in evidence that silver "linings" form on grains of gold. This will assist in studies of the formation of alluvial deposits in inshore waters.

Pure and applied scientists are striving to implement an integrated project for research into precious metals, based on forecasting models designed for use in the search for these metals. The Far Eastern Geological Institute has developed a brand new method of laser-spectral analysis, which makes it possible to determine the elemental content of ore with great accuracy.

The efforts of geochemists, geophysicists, mathematicians, and other researchers are being borne out in practice. The extraction of gold from alluvial deposits in Maritime Kray has been resumed. For the first time, deposits of gold and silver lode have been detected in commercial quantities.

U.S. World War II Planes Found in Kurils

OW2406105392 Vladivostok Radiostantiya Tikhiy Okean Maritime Service in Russian 0715 GMT 23 Jun 92

[From the "Pacific Ocean" program]

[Text] A military-patriotic group Ekipazh has discovered eight well-preserved U.S. planes in the vicinity of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy. They were delivered to the USSR exactly 50 years ago by [words indistinct], and took part in combat missions against Japan during WWII.

Sergey Tsvetkov, the leader of the Ekipazh group, has just returned from an expedition to the Kurils and tells us that there are still U.S. Cobra, Mitchell, and [words indistinct] planes at the old airport, as well as Soviet MiG-15 jets, which are as rare in our museums as cannons from Napoleon's times. Dozens of Japanese planes were found on Shumshu Island, where the Ekipazh group has worked many times.

These findings not only allow additions to the rarest examples of equipment but also open unknown pages about the fate of people who piloted these planes in wartime.

The group's expeditions are financed by their customers, some of whom are foreigners. Ekipazh intends to use the profits to restore military equipment and build its own museum. During their decade of work, the volunteers have determined the place of death of thousands of unknown soldiers and found hundreds of [words indistinct] of military equipment, some of which was handed over to local museums.

U.S. Firms Aid Sakhalin Offshore Oilfield

PM2306153792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0500 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Video report by V. Korotkikh, V. Shinkarev; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] Leading world oil and gas firms are displaying an interest in the rich deposits of hydrocarbons on the Sakhalin shelf.

[Korotkikh over view of sea, ships, offshore platform] A difficult situation concerning the provision of gas and oil products has arisen not only in Russia, but also in many countries on the Pacific seaboard. The main suppliers of liquefied gas in this area are the United States, Indonesia, Australia, and the Persian Gulf countries. But the demands of Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, and Australia for hydrocarbons have to wait in line behind tenders that have already been made on the world market. In this region there are no richer oil and gas deposits than those off the Sakhalin coast. But the deposits are faced with harsh climatic conditions, so that, in order to develop them, it is necessary to build iceproof offshore platforms which are not yet part of world practice. Russia is trying to resolve the problem with the assistance of foreign partners who have experience of work in conditions similar to those of Sakhalin. The American oil firms McDermott and Marathon have already started working on feasibility studies for the development of the deposits on the Sakhalin shelf. [video shows sea, offshore platform in operation]

Kamchatka, St. Petersburg Discuss Power Plants

OW2206130092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1137 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Head of the administration of the Kamchatka region Vladimir Biryukov is currently having talks with one of St. Petersburg's amalgamations on developing the project of a 1.5 MW [megawatts] nuclear power plant for Kamchatka, the local newspaper VESTI writes. It also reports that mini-nuclear power plants are expected to be installed in the distant settlements populated by reindeer-breeders and hunters.

The local power-engineering department says that the project alone will cost Kamchatka more than 6 million roubles, while one mini-reactor will cost at least 200 million roubles.

Liquor Prices Affect Rostov Pharmaceuticals

PM1806143392 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Video report by A. Abramenko and V. Yablokov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Abramenko] The Rostov Administration's recent resolutions liberalizing liquor prices are turning into an absolute disaster for the Rostov Pharmaceutical Factory. This enterprise, which supplies its tincture of valerian, other infusions, iodine, and ointments to 19 regions of Russia is about to grind to a halt. Primarily because of a lack of alcohol. Despite having funds released to it, the plant is finding that its supplier—the Novocherkassk Liquor Plant—is refusing to deliver, without giving any reason for its decision. But it's not hard to work out why. There's simply no profit in supplying alcohol to the pharmaceutical plant at fixed prices. [video shows A. Popoyanov, factory director]

[Popoyanov] Alcohol is available in the oblast—but at astronomical prices. And we can't afford it.

[Abramenko] And this despite the fact that, in line with the Russian president's decrees, alcohol is a strictly controlled [fondiruyemyy] product. If the plant doesn't grind to a halt in the near future, its director believes that it will at least have to almost halve production of heart preparations. [video shows factory production lines, Popoyanov]

International Affairs

President 'Satisfied' With Dagomys Talks

LD2306222192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2150 GMT 23 Jun 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Aleksandr Litvinov for TASS]

[Text] Kiev, June 24 TASS—"I am satisfied with the results of the meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin," Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk said at the airport upon his return from Dagomys. "This was a turning point in relations between Ukraine and Russia. It is the first time that we have managed to bring relations between our countries to an inter-state level," Kravchuk stressed.

"We succeeded in solving virtually all economic issues during this brief meeting, specifically those of mutual settlements which will be made proceeding from world market prices. We also agreed on the principle of Ukraine's transition to its own currency so that no damage will be caused to either side.

"We also came to the conclusion that we can influence the development of bilateral relations as well as the situation that is forming on our borders and in the Commonwealth flashpoints. I mean first and foremost the Dniester region. This is a territory where Ukrainians, Russians and other peoples live.

"During the meeting, we elaborated a new approach to solving the problem of the Black Sea Fleet. Two fleets will be created on its basis: the Ukrainian and Russian. This problem will be solved on the bilateral basis, excluding such an institute as the Commonwealth.

"We decided that relations between our countries should be friendly, equal and constructive, they should meet the vital interests of our peoples. It is only on this basis that all problems can be resolved," Kravchuk emphasised.

Kravchuk Meets World Economic Forum President

LD2306122192 Kiev UKRINFORM in Ukrainian 1755 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Excerpts] On 22 June, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk received Klaus Schwab, leader of the World Economic Forum, who took part in the Kiev conference of that organization. I think that the Kiev meeting, said the president of Ukraine in his address to the guest, will give new ideas and new materials for the work of the world forum. For me, he stressed, it was very pleasant that my first foreign trip, then in the rank of the head of the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine, was to Davos, where your forum works. The cooperation with the Economic Forum and those contacts which already took place gave Ukraine many ideas and concrete propositions which are now being implemented stage by stage. Now, when the conference of the forum was held here in Kiev, we are glad that you could see with your own eyes those changes which are taking place in Ukraine. [passage omitted]

During the meeting the leader of the forum handed over to the president of Ukraine an invitation to take part in the work of the next conference which will take place in Davos. There, he said, we will pay attention mainly to the questions concerning the future of Europe. [passage omitted]

Statement Expresses Concern Over Moldova Events

LD2306220992 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 2100 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] In connection with the latest events in Moldova the Ukrainian National Information Agency made a statement.

In part it reads: On 19 June the situation in the Republic of Moldova was sharply aggravated. Military actions were again unleashed between the armed formations of the warring sides in the town of Bendery. There are killed and wounded and a number of civil objects ruined.

Thus agreements reached in Helsinki, Chisinau and Lisbon by the foreign ministers of Moldova, Russia, Romania and Ukraine on ways and mechanisms for settling the conflict and preventing its escalation on the territory of the Republic of Moldova were violated.

The Ukrainian National Information Agency is empowered to state that the Government of Ukraine is greatly anxious with the tragic development of events in the town of Bendery and resolutely demands an immediate stop to the military operation. The Government of Ukraine once more stresses that the conflict in the Republic of Moldova should be solved by political means.

Parliament Official Criticizes Shaposhnikov

LD2306133492 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] The utterances of Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, were described as groundless by the commission of the Ukrainian parliament on the issues of defense and state security. He stated at the news conference in Moscow that the position of Ukraine on strategic nuclear weapons is insufficiently constructive and, in the opinion of the marshal, is a sign of our state's aspiration to become nuclear. Shaposhnikov also expressed disappointment on Ukraine's unwillingness to joint the system of collective security of the Commonwealth.

In an interview to the teleradio agency "Novyny," Valentyn Lemesh, deputy head of the parliament commission on the questions of defense and state security, stressed that Ukraine is not changing its course on reaching a nuclear-free status. It became in its time an owner of nuclear weapons not by its own will but as part of the former Union. As for the collective security, as

Valentyn Lemesh stated, joining such a system runs counter to the intention of Ukraine to become a neutral state outside any blocks. At the same time, Ukraine supports on a bilateral basis development of many-sided relations with the CIS countries including in the military sphere.

National Affairs

'Extra Measures' Taken Along Moldovan Border

LD2306151192 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1249 GMT 23 Jun 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Kiev—The Ukrainian frontier detachments have been ordered to assume a regime of reinforced guard of the Ukrainian-Moldovan sector of the state border.

According to the information PF [POSTFACTUM] received from the Ukrainian frontier troops press service, the order was administered by the chairman of the state committee for guarding the state border of Ukraine, commander of the republic's frontier troops, Colonel-General Valeriy Gubenko due to a sharp aggravation of the situation in the Dniester region that is marked by the opening of hostilities using armored vehicles and artillery. The Ukrainian border guards have been ordered to ensure protection and inviolability of Ukraine's territory, security of its citizens and prevent armed units and other trespassers from crossing the border.

According to the same sources, the Ukrainian frontier troops are taking extra measures to ensure passage of refugees whose number has dramatically increased in the past few days. According to the Ukrainian frontier troops headquarters, during June 19-21 alone, over 10,000 people passed through the border checkpoints, mainly women and children and members of Russia's Dniester-based 14th Army servicemen's families.

Anatoliy Samarchenko, a press service officer, told PF that the Ukrainian border guards stationed on the Ukrainian-Moldovan border are regularly confiscating arms and ammunition being exported from the Dniester region, mainly by Russia's Cossacks. Thus, the border guards at check-point Kuchurgan on June 19 confiscated from the Cossacks who were accompanying 4 coffins with their compatriots' bodies from the Dniester to the city of Novocherkassk 12 grenades with 14 fuses, 10 flash rockets and about 2,000 cartridges to various types of cut fire arms. At check-point Platonovo on June 20, a submachine-gun and a pistol complete with a large amount of cartridges were confiscated from two Cossacks leaving the Trans-Dniester region. On the whole, Samarchenko said, the situation on the Ukrainian-Moldovan border remains calm but the Ukrainian frontier troops command keeps receiving dispatches from the places where the border-guard units are stationed about unceasing shooting on the territory of Moldova made from all types of weapons.

Ukrainian, Crimean Presidiums Approve Amendments

LD2406101392 Kiev UKRINFORM in Ukrainian 1507 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Report from the press center of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet]

[Text] [no dateline as received] On 22 June, there was a joint session of the Ukrainian and Crimean Supreme Soviet presidiums, in which people's deputies of Ukraine and Crimea, and chiefs of Crimean town and rayon soviets of people's deputies took part. The session discussed amendments to the Ukrainian law On the Status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Chairman I.S. Plyushch, opened the session.

V.V. Durdynets, first deputy head of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, made a speech in which he stressed that the joint working group of the presidiums of Ukrainian and Crimean Supreme Soviets, acting in accordance with the statement adopted at the consultative meeting between the presidiums on 1 June in Yalta, worked constructively; all the propositions submitted were carefully examined and analyzed, and consultations were held with scholars and lawyers. The main goal is to create a legal basis for making the Republic of Crimea a constituent part of Ukraine with conditions that will enable it to realize its special potential and to independently decide social, economic and cultural questions. The speaker dwelt specifically with the amendments to the law which the working group proposed, as well as with the points on which it did not reach agreement.

Crimean Supreme Soviet Chairman M.V. Bagrov stressed in his speech that the consultative meeting between the Ukrainian and Crimean Supreme Soviet presidiums in Yalta have positively influenced the social and political situation in Crimea. After briefly describing the proposals of the joint working group, he said they can be accepted as a basis, and that additional work should be carried out on them.

Later, in a businesslike atmosphere, the meeting discussed and voted article by article on amendments to the Law On the Status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. At times the discussions were heated. The meeting proposed that the title of the law be reworded to read: On Delimitation of Authorities Between the Bodies of State Power of Ukraine and the Republic of Crimea.

Various opinions were voiced on citizenship and property regulations, but, after a discussion, common positions were reached. On the question of citizenship, it was decided to write the following in the draft: Each citizen of the Republic of Crimea is simultaneously a citizen of Ukraine.

The meeting decided to note in the protocol of the joint sitting that the Ukrainian and Crimean Supreme Soviet presidiums approve the working group's amendments to the Ukrainian Law On the Status of the Autonomous

Republic of Crimea. The working group has been instructed to prepare, taking into consideration the discussion of these amendments, a corresponding draft law and to submit it for consideration to the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet.

After the meeting, I.S. Plyushch and M.V. Bagrov met journalists and answered their questions.

Bill Gives Full Economic Independence to Crimea

LD2306222892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2119 GMT 23 Jun 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Lev Ryabchikov for TASS]

[Text] Simferopol, June 23 TASS—A press conference devoted to the results of the work to draft a bill to delineate the powers between the state government bodies of Ukraine and the Republic of the Crimea was held in the Crimean parliament today.

Responding to questions from journalists, Crimean Supreme Soviet chairman Nikolay Bagrov emphasised that as a result of the painstaking work the two parliaments' working groups managed to lay down a sturdy enough groundwork for adopting this important document. He said everything now depends on what decision is made on this score and when the Ukrainian parliament will make.

Bagrov reiterated that he is against holding a referendum because the issue put to the national vote is not in the interests of the Crimea's people. "I became convinced in this even more during meetings with voters. Like myself, they believe that the referendum will fragment the Crimea and pit the people living on its territory against each other," Bagrov observed.

Bagrov said the all-important thing in the prepared document is that it extends full economic independence to the Crimea to the point of concluding independently international economic agreements.

Moldova

Parliament Calls For Security Council Meeting

LD2306142192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1354 GMT 23 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fyodor Angeli]

[Text] Chisinau, June 23 TASS—The Moldovan parliament decided on Tuesday [23 June] to forward a request to the United Nations calling for an urgent convocation of the Security Council to discuss "open Russian aggression against the Republic of Moldova".

The resolution adopted by the parliament denounces the "open and intended interference" of the Russian 14th Army into the armed conflict in the Dniester region, as well as the "irresponsible statement" of Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy concerning the conflict and his open interference into the internal affairs of Moldova during his visit to Bendery and other towns of the republic.

The conflict in the Dniester region has reached a critical point and the independence and territorial integrity of Moldova is in mortal danger, the document stated.

The Dniester region and the city of Bendery are a zone occupied by the Russian 14th Army and a state commission was created to investigate its crimes on the territory of Moldova, the resolution stressed.

Snegur Says Casualties Reports 'Exaggerated'

OW2306151792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1438 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Moldova's President Mircea Snegur has denied today, Tuesday [23 June], at the session of the Moldovan parliament that over a thousand people have been killed or wounded in Bendery in the past 24 hours. A report to that effect had been circulated by the press-centre of the Dniester Republic. The report also mentioned thousands of refugees—mostly women, old men, and children—are leaving for Ukraine.

In his turn, the State Secretary of the Dniester government Valeriy Litskay has said in an interview with INTERFAX [IF] that the cited casualties (over a thousand) "have been exaggerated and are far from reality". He thinks that since Friday when bitter fighting flared up in Bendery "some 400 people have died. [no closing quotation marks as received] During Monday's clashes in Bendery 40 people were killed on the Dniester guards' side.

V. Litskay informs IF that sporadic fire has continued today, Tuesday, in Bendery. The centre is occupied by the Dniester guards and the suburbs are controlled by the Moldovan armed units.

President Snegur has declared in Chisinau that all day on Monday the situation in the conflict zone remained extremely tense. He stressed that bitter fighting went on in Bendery and in the village of Varnitsa where the guards tried to penetrate with support from Russia's 14th Army units.

M. Snegur informed the deputies that "with the help of Romania's President Ion Iliescu we have come overnight to a decision on a ceasefire. Though shooting continued till 5 AM, now all fire has ceased".

M. Snegur also said that the UN Secretary-General Butrus-Ghali has expressed an intention to send UN experts to Moldova shortly.

Addressing the session the chairman of Moldova's Supreme Soviet Alexsandru Mosanu pointed out that conservative forces with empirialist thinking are trying hard to prevent the republic from reaching its sovereignty and independence. He stressed that those forces involved Moldova in an armed conflict unleashed in its eastern areas.

A. Mosanu described the latest events in Bendery as a deliberate provocation on the part of the Dniester and the 14th Russian Army.

Over 500 Deaths Reported

LD2406005492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2105 GMT 23 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau, 23 Jun—A cease-fire, achieved as a result of negotiations between the presidents of Moldova and Russia, was observed in Bendery throughout the day. An ITAR-TASS correspondent was informed of this at the Moldovan Ministry of Internal Affairs' and Tiraspol's press centers. According to the Moldovan Ministry of Internal Affairs, a concentration of guards' forces and the combat military equipment of the 14th Army was observed near the bridge between Tiraspol and Bendery. Moldova radio reports, citing reliable sources, that the short break is being used by the armed formations of the Dniester region and the 14th Army "to prepare for a surprise wide-scale military action."

At the press center in Tiraspol, it was reported that in keeping with the agreement between the city authorities and the Bendery police there is no shooting in the city. The inhabitants are burying their dead in yards. According to information from Tiraspol, the number of people killed during the three days of fighting in Bendery exceeds 500, and the approximate number of injured is nearly 3,500. Electricity and communications are cut off in a number of city districts. In Tiraspol today, 35 people were buried, and more than 80 will be buried tomorrow.

Over 30,000 Refugees Reportedly Flee Bendery

LD2306195192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 23 Jun 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Fortunately, we have restored our communication line with Odessa, to where our correspondent has just returned from Tiraspol. I remind you that today is a day of morning in the Dniester region. Tiraspol is burying those who fell while fighting for Bendery.

[Correspondent S. Fateyev] These frightening words have entered the vocabulary of war which is raging in the Dniester region: evacuation and bombardment. The inhabitants of Bendery, who only yesterday were hoping for a miracle, for the end of this fighting, for common sense prevailing have lost this hope today. After air bombardment by the Moldova side and the barbarous shelling of the residential areas from every kind of weapon and ammunition—despite the promises of cease-fire—Bendery has become a dead city after just a few hours this morning.

A stream of refugees has began to flow from the city. Everyone flees as best he can, taking children and just a few salvaged possessions. According to a preliminary assessment, since 0400 today more than 30,000 people have fled to Tiraspol, Odessa, and southern Ukraine.

All the Dniester region is in mourning today. Tiraspol was saying farewell to 35 of its defenders. Another 45 dead will be buried here tomorrow. Such a number of casualties in just three days—and there are hundreds of them—has never been seen either by the Afgan veterans or by those who witnessed the fighting in Transcaucasia. There is no room left in the Tiraspol city hospital to keep the mutilated, ravaged corpses. The dead includes a huge number of civilians. [video shows burned out buildings, bodies in hospital morgue]

In spite of the absolutely groundless allegations made by President Snegur against Russia and the incredible tension, the 14th Army is maintaining its neutrality. But as Army Chief of Staff General Tikhomirov has stated, in case of an assault on any unit or any serviceman the Army will respond with equal measure.

Snegur Withdraws Government Resignation Proposal

LD2306164192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1528 GMT 23 Jun 92

[By MOLDOVA-PRESS correspondent]

[Text] Chisinau, June 23 TASS—Moldovan President Mircea Snegur at today's parliamentary session withdrew his suggestion to consider the government's resignation plea. He explained the move by considerable disagreement on the issue between parliamentarians which could impede the forming of a new government.

Snegur said he would advise the government to readdress the appeal to the parliament—as the legislation prescribes, but said he retained the right to suggest a candidate for the post of prime minister according to powers delegated to the president for the transition period.

The resignation thus will be considered at a later stage—after the executive power submits its formal request to the legislative power.

Parliament Adopts Resolution on Solving Conflict

AU2406050192 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1700 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Septimiu Roman dispatch from Chisinau]

[Excerpts] The parliament's evening session, which ended about an hour ago, heard a report of the parliamentary commission on the activity of state organs, with documentation on cases of corruption and massive exports of products. [passage omitted]

In the morning session, the parliament adopted an appeal to the peoples, parliaments, and governments of the world and a resolution on certain ways and means to politically resolve the situation in the eastern rayons of the Republic of Moldova, a document consisting of five points. The document reiterates the parliament's stand on the need for a cease-fire and for a peaceful and constitutional settlement of the accumulated political problems and considers it necessary to continue the activity of the joint commission; the deputies from the eastern rayons of the Republic of Moldova are invited to participate in the parliament's sessions on finding political solutions to problems of joint interest; the Republic of Moldova rayons on the eastern bank of the Dniester River and the city of Tighina [Bendery] are considered areas occupied by the 14th Army and paramilitary units; a state commission is set up to investigate the crimes committed by the 14th Army on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, with experts from other states being invited to cooperate; and the United Nations is asked to urgently convene the Security Council to examine issues pertaining to Russia's open aggression against the Republic of Moldova. This resolution was adopted with a majority of 185 votes.

After the first break, the deputies examined President Mircea Snegur's proposals on the government's dismissal; they decided that the parliament should be the body that appoints and dismisses the executive body.

Regarding the aggravation of the political situation in the Republic of Moldova, certain rumors have been put into circulation, some of which claim that the republic will be cut off from the electric power grid. Consequently, the citizens are becoming quite nervous. In an interview with the Chisinau mass information media, Mr. Mircea Costea, deputy minister of the Ministry of Industry and Energy of the Republic of Moldova, gave assurances that the electric power supply situation is normal and that no major changes are anticipated. Certain possible interruptions may be due to either repairs or various power saving measures; however, they will be of a temporary nature, the deputy minister said. [passage omitted]

Snegur Expects 'Very Promising' Istanbul Talks

LD2406141492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1312 GMT 24 Jun 92

[By Valeriy Demidetskiy, ITAR-TASS correspondent]

Chisinau, 24 Jun—Moldovan President Mircea Snegur has described the forthcoming meeting with the heads of Black Sea states in Istanbul as very promising. In a brief interview given to journalists prior to his departure by air for Turkey, he stated that "a declaration that will make it possible to speed up the conclusion of bilateral economic and trade agreements and friendship and cooperation treaties between the Black Sea countries is to be signed" at the meeting. The president also said he will meet with the presidents of Turkey and Bulgaria in Istanbul. As is already known, a meeting of the presidents of Moldova, Russia, Romania, and the Ukraine will take place there, too. Problems connected with the armed conflict in the eastern rayons of the Republic will be discussed at it. Mircea Snegur expressed the hope that useful proposals on a peaceful settlement of the conflict will be voiced at the meeting.

Don Cossacks Ready To Help Dniester If Asked

LD2306174892 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Report by correspondent A. Abramenko; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The Don Cossacks are again prepared to defend the Dniester Republic. Information about such sentiments on the part of rank-and-file Cossacks is currently reaching the headquarters of the Union of Cossacks in the Don Host area. We were told that the dispatch of volunteers was being held up at the moment by one thing only.

[Begin recording] [V. Olennikov, deputy ataman of the Don Host area] We need an appeal for help from the Dniester region—precisely to us and to the Russian Government.

[Unidentified correspondent] If such an appeal materializes in the near future, what will the Cossacks do?

[Olennikov] I think that volunteers will go there. [end recording]

Power Lines Out Between Bendery, Tiraspol

LD2306173792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Report by correspondent Gennadiy Varfolomeyev]

[Text] On 23 June, firing from automatic weapons and large-caliber machineguns continued in Bendery. Snipers are continuing to be active in the town. As before, the central part of Bendery is being controlled by Dniester region guards. The industrial zone, the police building, the prison, and the settlement of (?Vareta) are under the control of Moldova's Armed Forces. The maternity home has been evacuated. The building is occupied by the OMON [special-purpose militia detachment].

Supports have been blown up and insulators have been damaged of 110 kilovolt power lines between Bendery and Tiraspol. In Bendery, out of eight 110 kilovolt electricity substations only two are working.

On 23 June, the situation in Dubossary was relatively calm. One guardsman has been killed by a sniper. In Tiraspol, farewell funerals took place for 35 defenders of the Dniester region. Thousands of refugees, women and children in the main, are being evacuated from Bendery and Tiraspol.

Bulgaria Urges Peaceful Solution to Conflict

LD2306221692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2149 GMT 23 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Stepanenko]

[Text] Sofia, June 24 TASS—Bulgaria has expressed its anxiety over the aftermaths of the Dniester conflict for ethnic Bulgarians, inhabiting the region. According to a Foreign Ministry statement, circulated on behalf of Bulgarian Government on Tuesday [23 June], serious damage was inflicted on Bulgarian settlements and their population in the region. The statement said Moldovan Government should stop the conflict and find peaceful ways of resolving the crisis.

The Bulgarian Government also appealed to Russia, Ukraine and Romania to strengthen their efforts in seeking for a solution to the conflict according to the U.N. Charter principles.

Moldovan Army Strength, Armament Cited

PM2306172392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Viktor Litovkin report: "War in Moldova"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Viorel Chubotaru, an official at the Moldovan Defense Ministry Press Center, has stated that "in the past 24 hours illegal armed Dniester region formations with the support of tanks and other 14th Army hardware have been shelling positions held by the defenders of Moldova's integrity."

According to other reports, separate teams of volunteer officers from the 14th Army are taking part in the hostilities; the Army itself is currently in defense mode [v oborone].

Military experts believe that there are currently 12,000-15,000 men in the Moldovan Army but its size is being constantly increased by reservists, and may reach 30,000 by September. The offensive in the Dubossary salient is being undertaken by Moldova's First Motorized Infantry Brigade. Another five Army brigades are being set up. There will be three motorized infantry brigades, one artillery brigade, and one helicopter brigade.

These brigades hold the privatized 14th Army materiel on the right bank—tanks, armored personnel carriers, and artillery systems. Moreover, experts claim, military cooperation between Moldova and Romania is steadily developing.

Romanian arms and combat hardware are being almost openly moved through the Ungeny border station and the Dzhuleshty checkpoint. We reported some figures in yesterday's IZVESTIYA. We have learned from informed sources that there are 120 Romanian servicemen in Moldova, including specialists in sabotage operations.

Incidentally, the MiG-29's which took part in the bombing of a bridge near Bendery are from a naval aviation regiment which until recently belonged to the Black Sea Fleet but was illegally appropriated by the Moldovan Government. These are front-line fighters, but they are also capable of ground-attack missions. They can carry air-to-surface missiles and bombs on their wing mounts. There are 38 MiG-29's in service with the Moldovan Army—32 combat aircraft and six trainers. All the pilots of the "privatized" regiment have moved to Russia and are serving in its units. Just who is flying the naval aviation aircraft and carrying out bombing raids on the left bank is a question for the experts.

On the night of 22-23 June the warring factions reached agreement on a cease-fire and and the ending of large-scale military actions but the bursts of automatic fire in Bendery and Dubossary continue.

'Intense Mobilization' of Reservists in Dniester

AU2406115792 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0642 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 24/6/1992—In the Dniester pseudo-republic intense mobilization of the reservists continues, after having started even before the events in Tighina [Bendery], MOLDOVA PRES informs.

Mobilized are all soldiers till the age of 20 and officers till the age of 50.

The mobilization is made in the open. On the territory of the 14th Army's 59th division military sub-units are formed and sent immediately in the operations area without any preliminary preparation.

Joint Communique Issued on Situation in Bendery

AU2406113792 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1000 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Septimiu Roman dispatch from Chisinau]

[Text] A joint communique of the Defense and Interior Ministries includes a report on the situation in the town of Tighina [Bendery] from 1000 yesterday until this morning, as follows:

Yesterday at 0959 fire was opened from the direction of the village of Bicioc against places where civilians were working. The firing lasted for about five minutes and no casualties were reported.

At 1045 guardsmen and Cossacks left Tighina and were moving toward the town of Tiraspol.

At 1123 the situation was reportedly calm in Tighina, sporadic gunfire could be heard.

At 1326 two battalions of tanks waiting for orders were stationed on the right side of the Dniester, between the village of Parcani and the town of Tiraspol. Tanks and armored vehicles could be seen in the town of Tighina.

At 1350 a movement of troops could be observed at the entrance to the town of Tighina, with two 122 mm caliber cannons and two or three armored vehicles. Snipers were taking up positions.

At 1445 Alazan rockets were launched from the village of Gisca toward the town of Tighina.

At 1530 a column of tanks and armored vehicles were stationed between the village of Parcani and the town of Tiraspol, which, in accordance with our information, intend to move toward Chisinau.

At 1540 snipers took up observation positions in the center of the town of Tighina and fired at the defenders of the Republic of Moldova, who sometimes fired in response.

Starting at 1910 and until 2010 the guardsmen opened fire with machine guns and automatic weapons against the checkpoint on the Gura Bicului Bridge.

The firing against the village of Gura Bicului stopped at 2105.

At 2030 the guardsmen launched approximately eight Alazan rockets at the gas station in the village of Puhaceni. At 2345 another rocket was launched in the same direction.

Between 2223 and 2300 sporadic gunfire was heard in certain areas.

At 0030 two Alazan rockets fell again on Puhaceni Village.

At 0220 the Tighina Oil Extraction Factory was burning. Appeals were made for three teams of firemen to be sent from Chisinau toward Causeni. At 0240 the three teams of firemen left Chisinau. And at 0421 the factory continued to burn and sporadic firing was heard.

Dual Power Said Prevails in City of Bendery

LD2406115192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1045 GMT 24 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau, June 24 TASS—The last night passed without battles in the Dniester area (eastern Moldova). However, there were several exchanges of fire between the opposing sides. Both sides accuse each other of violating the ceasefire agreement.

There is "duel power" in the city of Bendery: Downtown is controlled by the Dniester guards. Moldovan police and troops hold outskirts and several buildings in the city's centre.

Larger units of the Moldovan Army as well as Dniester guards and Cossaks are on the lurk in nearby woods and villages on both sides of the city, ready to join the warring sides at any time.

The nerves of the 14th Russian Army troops deployed in the zone of fighting are at a breaking point. Military observers believe that under such circumstances, even an insignificant provoked skirmish can develop into a large-scale battle.

Representatives from the International Red Cross, now in Bendery, are giving assistance to the wounded. Thousands of refugees are fleeing the city.

Gunships Believed To Belong to 14th Army

LD2406115792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1045 GMT 24 Jun 92

[MOLDOVA-PRESS for TASS]

[Text] Chisinau, June 24 TASS—Separatists continue to fire on the positions of the Moldovan police and troops, the MOLDOVA-PRESS News Agency reports.

According to the Moldovan Interior Ministry, Dniester guards fired on the positions of Moldovan police in the vicinity of the Cocieri and Cosnita villages on several occasions. The MOLDOVA-PRESS Agency learnt at the press centre of the Moldovan Interior Ministry that an hour-long shooting was conducted from grenade-launchers, mortars and submachine-guns.

MOLDOVA-PRESS learnt at the Moldovan Defence Ministry that helicopter gunships were spotted over the villages of Dancheny and Durleshty, nearby Chisinau, on the night of June 22.

Specialists from the Moldovan Defence Ministry believe that the gunships belong to the 14th Russian Army.

'Intensive Shelling' Causes Considerable Damage

LD2406121592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1106 GMT 24 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow, June 24 TASS—The people of Dubossary have lived through a disquieting night. Intensive shelling of the city from mortars and hail guns "Alazan" that lasted for several hours caused considerable damage. Aleksandr Porozhan, deputy chairman of the municipal council, told ITAR-TASS on the telephone on Wednesday [24 June] that some 60 Alazan shells burst in the centre of Dubossary. According to preliminary reports, one person was killed and more than ten others were wounded. Dubossary residents hide in cellars for the night. Some 30 buses with refugees left the city in the recent days.

The press centre of the Dniester government reported that several houses were destroyed by shelling in Bendery and Grigoriopol last night.

The Dniester parliament on Wednesday adopted a decree condeming invasion of the Dniester area by the national army and other armed units of the Republic of Moldova. The Dniester parliament asked the parliaments of the Russian Federation and Ukraine that they recognise the republic and act as guarantors of its sovereignty and independence.

The Russian union of reserve officers adopted an address on Wednesday supporting the Russian leadership's stand for ceasefire and peaceful settlement of the conflict in the Dniester.

Tajikistan

Government Said 'In Full Control' of Situation

LD2306134292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1328 GMT 23 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, June 23 TASS—The Tajik Ministry of the Interior has spread a statement here condemning rumour that "the Kulyab guardsmen" (illegal militants stationed in the town of Kulyab) are preparing an attack against Dushanbe to exterminate "dissidents".

According to the ministry, the rumour has provoked the opposition to disarm the government militia checkpoints created according to a presidential decree and to form its own stations and self-defense units in the vicinity of Dushanbe.

The ministry said it had disarmed the self-organised units but also said it reinforced the police stations at the approaches to Dushanbe and added that the government is in full control of the situation.

Four Reported Killed in Kurgan-Tyube Shooting

LD2406103392 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 0400 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] The situation in the Kurgan-Tyube oblast is not calm. Owing to indiscriminate shooting the people of the oblast are [word indistinct]. Over the past 24 hours according to our information four people have been killed and seven wounded.

Border Units 'Under Siege' by Armed Groups

LD2406022192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2150 GMT 23 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, 23 Jun—The last few days have seen increasing instances in Tajikistan of attacks on CIS troops stationed in the republic, especially on border troops, as well as armed attempts to breach the state border to reach Afghanistan. This was stated in an interview with the republic's NARODNAYA GAZETA by Lieutenant Colonel Romas Yankauskas, deputy chief of the Operations Group of the Central Asian Border District. He warned that any attempt of armed attack on border guards would be resolutely thwarted in the future.

The lieutenant colonel said that in Kumsangirskiy and Pyandzhskiy Rayons there have been cases of attacks by unknown armed groups on border posts, ammunition dumps, was well as on officers and soldiers for the purpose of seizing weapons. On 21 June, at the Pyandzh section of the border, an armed gang in three trucks attacked a border post, threatening the border guards with violence. The "attack" was repulsed, luckily without casualties.

There are also increasing instances of armed attempts to breach the border both by small and large groups of unknown political orientation. It has been discovered that the aim is to obtain weapons and other assistance from the Afghan mojahedin.

Moreover, it has been learned from sources close to the district staff that the Pyandzh Rayon center, which borders Afghanistan, is practically blockaded by an armed force. A military base where hundreds of families of border guards live is under siege.

Government Supporters Form United Front

LD2206220292 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1848 GMT 22 Jun 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Dushanbe—Supporters of the coalition government in Tajikistan formed a united Front for the Salvation of Motherland.

The situation in Tajikistan has grown tense during the last 3 days. Anti-government armed groups from Kulyab expand their influence over the Kurgan-Tyube region implementing repressions against members of the Rastokhez Public Democratic Party and the Islamic Rebirth Party. Reports from these areas inform about assaults on police stations and seized weapons. However, the information on casualties is very controversial.

Armed groups from Kulyab headed by Sangak, a criminal with a 22-year prison background, control mountain passes connecting Dushanbe with southern and eastern parts of the republic. In Dushanbe outskirts the Interior Ministry, National Security Committee and Republican Committee of Defense have erected protection barriers of trollies and armored concrete. Supporters of the democratic political coalition urgently form a National Guard headed by Major- General Bakhram Rakhmonov, chairman of the Committee of Defense.

According to most recent reports from the Defense Committee, Kulyab anti-government groups have received American ammunition and Israel-made Uzi submachine-guns, as well as grenade-launchers and anti-hail cannons. Moreover, the opposition has got hold of 64 Kamaz trucks shielded with steel plates and used as armored carriers. Kulyab opposition demands prohibition of political parties with the exception of Communists, returning to office former parliament Speaker Safarali Kendzhayev and former Vice-President Narzullo Dustov, as well as resignation of the National Conciliation coalition government.

Supporters of the government approved a statement signed by chairman of the organizational committee of the National Salvation Front (established on June 20), leader of the Tajikistan Democratic Party, Shodmon Yusupov. The statement reads that all power in the republic should be temporarily transferred to headquarters of the front.

Tajikistan state is in danger. The president's inaction and political double game, lack of state authority do for the escalation of a civil war, said Mr. Yusupov in his TV appearance on June 21. He called on all healthy political forces supporting the National Conciliation Coalition to protect democratic achievements, united around the core of the National Salvation Front and support the Republican Defense and National Security Committees in the name of peace and accord in Tajikistan.

On June 22 press secretary of the president Makhmud Shakhobiddinov told PF [POSTFACTUM] correspondent that Rakhman Nabiyev is currently in hospital after the June 19-20 negotiations between the president and members of the coalition government attended also by representatives of the democratic bloc resulted in a sudden sickness of the president. The democrats demanded decisive action by the president in order to stop terror against government supporters in Kulyab. With the help of Prime Minister Akbar Mirzoyev and Acting Chairman of the Supreme Soviet's Presidium Akbarsho Iskandarov the parties drafted a presidential decree establishing a state council and transferring all authority to the latter.

Chairman of the Democratic Party Shodmon Yusupov believes that the president imitated a heart attack unwilling to sign the decree and is now escaping in some shelter. In his June 21 interview Mr. Iskandarov noted that a paralysis of authority is obvious in the republic on all levels while Tajikistan is facing a threat of a civil war and split-up. According to Acting Chairman of the Supreme Soviet's Presidium Mr. Iskandarov, it is, first, necessary to seek for political ways of overcoming the crisis and, secondly, apply specific unpopular measures and bolster the activity of the Interior Ministry and National Security Committee in the area of armed conflict. He also spoke out in support of transferring the CIS united Armed Forces to the republic with all its equipment stationed in Tajikistan.

Opposition suggests naming square after Safarali Kendzhayev Dushanbe. Local politicians say renaming in Tajikistan—a sign of political polarization of society. The names of Lenin and Kalinin have been removed from the titles of the Tajik State University and the Tajik Institute of Physical Culture. At the same time the paper of the Cabinet of Ministers writing on June 19, about the division of the Rudaki Farm in the Leninabad region, reported that one of the six farms formed in its stead is named after Stalin.

There have been reports that opponents of the coalition government in Kulyab intend to name a central street in the regional center after their leader Sangak, formerly convicted. In the same place some of the presidential guard suggest renaming, in case of victory, a square in Dushanbe after former speaker Safarali Kendzhayev, and an auto-transport facility—after Vice-President Narzullo Dustov, who was formerly director of the republican car depot N2.

Uzbekistan

President Karimov Begins Far East Visit

PM2306142992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Shakhabutdin Zaynutdinov report: "I. Karimov's Asian Tour Takes in Seoul, Kuala Lumpur, and Jakarta"]

[Text] Tashkent—A Republic of Uzbekistan delegation headed by President Islam Karimov has left for an official visit to the ROK, Malaysia, and Indonesia.

This is not just the Uzbek leader's longest foreign tour—over a week long— but also his first visit to Southeast Asia and countries in the Asia and Pacific basin, whose experience the sovereign republic intends to study when developing its own "Uzbek model" of development.

The natural rapprochement of Korea, Malaysia, and Indonesia with Uzbekistan is aided by the fact that these peoples have quite a lot in common in culture, customs, and traditions. In the case of Seoul and Kuala Lumpur, their cooperation with Tashkent was established even before the proclamation of Uzbek independence in September last year. Malaysian statesmen are frequent visitors to Uzbekistan and important agreements have been concluded with them in the economic and cultural spheres. Joint ventures are being set up. This is the third year of operation of the Tashkent-Kuala Lumpur air link, which is used by businessmen and tourists from CIS countries and the Baltic.

There is particular interest in South Korea: There are 190,000 Koreans living in Uzbekistan—one-half of the Korean diaspora on the territory of the former USSR—who were forcibly deported there from the Far East and Central Asia in 1937. This is why Seoul, in addition to discussing interstate questions, is planning to examine problems connected with the strengthening of humanitarian ties between the Korean community in Uzbekistan and their ethnic homeland. In this connection, observers here are noting that during the talks with President No Tae-u and other ROK leaders, the topic of the reunification of the two Korean states, a highly delicate one as far as the leader of sovereign Uzbekistan is concerned, is sure to be raised.

Indonesia stands out in this visit by the president: He was invited there last year when an Uzbek parliamentary delegation visited the country. There is a noteworthy fact demonstrating the dynamic nature of direct economic contacts between the two states: When the Samarkand tea weighing factory, the only one of its kind in the whole of Central Asia, was on the verge of stopping work in 1991 because of a shortage of raw materials, Indonesia came to its aid and promptly supplied a large consignment of tea of a kind previously unknown in this region.

On the eve of I. Karimov's forthcoming visit to the "land of the 3,000 islands," President Suharto has sent Tashkent a telegram saying in particular that "it will be a tremendous honor" for him and the Indonesian people to welcome the leader of a country with which Indonesia hopes to develop "good and mutually beneficial relations."

In I. Karimov's opinion, the potential for the development of contacts between Uzbekistan and these three countries is not restricted to material matters because spiritual and cultural ties with them will undoubtedly help mutual understanding and cooperation between Central Asia and the Far East.

Karimov on Disarmament

LD2306135492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1301 GMT 23 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Fedortsov]

[Text] Jakarta, 23 Jun—Uzbekistan favors nuclear disarmament and the spread of this process to conventional armaments, Uzbek President Islam Karimov said in reply to questions from the ITAR-TASS correspondent. In this connection we have great respect for the antinuclear policy being implemented by Indonesian President Suharto, he said.

The head of the Uzbek state was in Indonesia on a two-day state visit, which ended with the signing of a number of documents concerning ties between the two states, including the establishment of diplomatic relations between them.

"As far as relations with Russia are concerned, I will say this to you," Karimov continued. "During the recent signing of the key agreement with the Russian Federation, I told your president: Uzbekistan does not imagine its future without good relations with the Russian Federation. Our relations are very close and they will never depend upon the sympathy or antipathy of our leaders, since these relations have been formed over the centuries."

In this connection, the president of Uzbekistan evaluated highly the activity of the ITAR-TASS agency information center, which guarantees a unified information space in the countries of the CIS. "We know well the ITAR-TASS agency, which gives the most exhaustive information on the state of affairs in Uzbekistan," he noted.

Exchange of Envoys Planned

LD2306085192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0815 GMT 23 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Fedortsov]

[Text] Jakarta, June 23 TASS—There are all indications to think that Uzbekistan and Indonesia will exchange ambassadors in the near future, President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov, who is in Indonesia on a state visit, said during the dinner hosted in his honour by Indonesian President Suharto. We consider Indonesia one of our closest and friendly states and this understanding is founded not only on the commonness of our culture, religion and traditions, the president emphasised. We support Indonesia in its policy of positive neutrality, in its efforts to ensure peace in South-East Asia and a ban on nuclear weapons in the Pacific Ocean region. Like Indonesia, we oppose racism, apartheid, and stand for equality and mutually beneficial cooperation with all countries of the world.

Pointing out to good prospects of economic relations between the two states, President Karimov said: "Uzbekistan only recently became the master of its own natural resources. However, the possibilities which we possess are so promising that it can reach the level of most developed countries in a few years, provided, of course, we manage our national economy in a right manner. There is no doubt that we can rely on such friendly countries as Indonesia in achieving our aim.

Visit Concludes

LD2306224292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2148 GMT 23 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Fedortsov]

[Text] Jakarta, June 23 TASS—President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov ended his visit to Indonesia on Tuesday [23 June]. The visit has resulted in the signing of three documents, which determine directions of and prospects for cooperation between the two countries. Both sides agreed to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level, as well as develop ties in economic, scientific and technical, and cultural fields.

Addressing a press conference in Jakarta on Tuesday, the president of Uzbekistan said that his country is greatly interested in the experience of Indonesia's economic development. Islam Karimov announced his country's intention to become an observer and then a full-fledged member of the Non-aligned Movement.

Touching upon the situation in Uzbekistan, the president said his main aim is to maintain peace and stability in the country, inhabited by more than 100 peoples, nations and ethnic groups. Speaking about relations with the Russian Federation, Islam Karimov recalled the words he said to Russian President Boris Yeltsin: "Uzbekistan cannot imagine its future without good relations with the Russian Federation."

Karimov 'Satisfied'

OW2406123592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1130 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov told IF [INTERFAX] that during his visit to Korea, Malaysia and Indonesia Uzbekistan opened for itself new zones of cooperation and confirmed its readiness to establish contacts with these countries in all areas. He reaffirmed that Uzbekistan will adhere to the generally accepted norms and will brush away all ideological prejudices.

He said that he was satisfied with his talks with the leaders, public figures and business people of the three states. A number of documents envisaging measures to promote economic and cultural relations have been signed. Karimov said that the business people were particularly interested in state guarantees to foreign investments and privileges granted to entrepreneurs.

Armenia

Statement Issued on Azerbaijani Claims

LD2406080992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0719 GMT 24 Jun 92

[By ARMENPRES correspondent Aleksandr Grigoryan for ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Yerevan June 24 TASS—The Government of the Republic of Armenia has issued a statement in connection with the events related to Nagorno-Karabakh.

The document says that in the recent days some Azerbaijani officials had made a number of statements deliberately distorting facts regarding realities in the Transcaucasia. It is absolutely unfoundedly asserted that the Armenian Army had launched an offensive all along the perimeter of the Armenian-Azeri border. Armenia is also groundlessly accused of imposing a blockade on Nakhichevan and launching an aggression against that autonomous republic.

The statement says that in reality things are absolutely different, ARMENPRES reports. It is Armenia that is subjected to an economic blockade, while cargoes reach Nakhichevan Republic by detour routes over Iran and across the border with Turkey which is not guarded. It is precisely the Azerbaijani leadership that is concentrating troops on the border with Armenia in order to involve it in an armed conflict between the Republics of Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh, the statement says. Deliberately misleading the world public opinion, Azerbaijan launched on June 12 a large-scale military operation against the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. Azerbaijan occupied the Shaumyan District and part of the Mardakert District. As many as 30 Armenian populated localities were destroyed as a result of this action. More than one thousand civilians were killed. Tens of thousands of people were deported.

All this indicates that Azerbaijan is getting ready for a large- scale aggession, this time against Armenia, the statement says. This is why the Armenian Government notes that if this happens the Joint Armed Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States should fulfill their obligations to protect Armenia's territorial integrity in accordance with the collective security treaty of the CIS member countries.

President Addresses Supreme Soviet Session

NC2306203092 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1650 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Report by Mavr Danielyan from the Armenian Supreme Soviet session in Yerevan on 23 June—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Danielyan] The parliament continued the political debate on Nagorno-Karabakh during its session today. [passage omitted] President Levon Ter-Petrosyan also addressed the session:

[Ter-Petrosyan] Esteemed Chairman and Deputies:

I am pleased that the debate is taking place openly before our people, and for the first time our people are taking stock of the arguments by our various political groups. Every conceivable motive rests behind the arguments presented here, such as the struggle between the parties, the struggle for power, and concern for the nation's fate. All these motives are playing a part in these arguments. I have already enumerated my view about the position that must be adopted by the Armenian and Nagorno-Karabakh authorities for the solution of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem. These views were outlined just a while ago by Supreme Soviet Chairman Babken Ararktsyan. We have no intention of deviating from this course. After all, the Supreme Soviet has all the constitutional means to influence the president's policy. But an attempt is being made to impose a policy on the elected authorities through non-constitutional methods. Here the shouts of a group of 50 people are proof of this. The resignation of the Armenian president and Government is demanded. I had already proposed to you a number of [words indistinct] constitutional solution for this problem, and it is still a mystery to me and the people why the Supreme Soviet does not endorse the solution I have proposed. The constitutional way out is the following, and I insist on my previous proposal: So that our differences do not culminate in an undesirable situation, the president must have the opportunity to dissolve the parliament through a referendum. Similarly, the parliament must have the right to demand the resignation of the Armenian president again through a referendum. Why does the parliament not agree to such a democratic, civilized and constitutional solution? Those forces which want the resignation of the government and president do not want to wage a constitutional struggle. No president would resign at the demand of a party with six seats or the support of 50 people.

A question was put to me about the cost of peace. I replied that we have to mobilize our forces and buy peace at the lowest price. I myself could ask what the cost of war is and who could clearly give me the cost of war. Have those who are calling for a never-ending war with Azerbaijan calculated our potential, all the political repercussions on our international and regional ties, the possibility of intervention by political allies of Armenia and Azerbaijan, or our economic potential? If they have calculated all these [words indistinct] let one of them rise up and assume full responsibility—this could be Arshak Sadoyan [prominent opposition figure], who has solutions for all problems, or anyone else, or Simonyan, Hrachik, or Vigen Khachadryan [not further identified]. Let them say that they have made such-and-such calculations and we have such-and-such possibilities, resources, allies, promises from major powers, and we could win this war and we should not be stupid enough to miss this glorious historic chance for our nation. [words indistinct] If there is anyone who could (?provide such assurances) [words indistinct] I will immediately hand over my powers to that man. Is there any such person? Let him rise up and say, here is my calculation: so much of our nation will be exterminated and in return we will gain so much land. Of course, the question then will arise: Is it worth so many of our people being massacred for the sake of so much land? Is there anyone who could make such a calculation and answer to our people for such a calculation? [passage omitted]

I therefore repeat as an elected authority in Armenia that I am responsible for a policy which I believe is correct and the most appropriate for the moment. You could use all the constitutional methods to change this policy, and replace the president and government.

Regarding the essence of the problem: I have on a few occasions enumerated my views here. These views were repeated here by some speakers, such as Babken Ararktsyan, Yegoryan, and Gagik Arutyunyan. I want again to sum up clearly our approach to solving the Nagorno-Karabakh problem. I am sure that if we do not examine all alternatives and [word indistinct] let ourselves get dragged into a war, we would be repeating the same adventurism which took place in 1920, and we would be losing (?half) of our country. We might possibly defend a part of our land at the cost of heroic efforts and by resorting to heroic self-defense. I think our destruction soon will come if we are called on to spit on the norms of international behavior, disregard all standards of international law, rely on our own strength, disregard the entire world, and conduct a so-called national policy. Only two countries have acted in such an insolent manner towards international behavior and norms. One is Israel, which has been engaged in war for the last 50 years, and the other is Turkey, which occupied Cyprus in 1974. [words indistinct] If we really are as capable as these two countries of occupying and holding on to these lands, then let us do it. But my calculations show we are not capable of this. [passage omitted]

It was our desire, objective, and dream that Nagorno-Karabakh be reunited with Armenia. We so far have used all our abilities to this end, regardless of the statements, [Nagorno-Karabakh's] status, or the documents announced and signed so far. There is not even the need to be crafty, for the Turks, Azerbaijanis, and the entire world know our objective: Azerbaijan wants to keep Karabakh within its territory, and Armenia wants to unite it with Armenia. But in politics, slogans can and should change with the times and conditions. [words indistinct] If tomorrow we have to adopt other slogans, we will adopt them. We must achieve the maximum possible. This does not depend only on ourselves, but also on the strength of the enemy. Both sides are aspiring to obtain the maximum. But as you know, in such cases the time eventually comes for making concessions, reciprocating with other concessions, and holding talks. Each side uses this process of talks to obtain the maximum. Therefore, our approach is very simple: To strengthen at all costs and in every way the self-defense of Nagorno-Karabakh—and here it must be stated that this self-defense is being organized not by those forces which are demanding these things and preaching general war, but by those which aspire for a peaceful solution, for defense is one of the means to achieving a peaceful solution, and without the self-defense movement, no one would have sat down at talks with us—and use this as a means to find a peaceful solution through talks. The best time for talks is when we are winning, for we might not find such an opportunity in the future. After all, the enemy also aims at succeeding and things cannot go on like this. Therefore, my conclusion is unequivocal [words indistinct]: A peaceful resolution of the problem through self-defense and talks in order to bolster those security guarantees which Karabakh's self-defense has achieved. The other alternative is to enter into a continuous confrontation, disregard international norms, and for Karabakh not to participate in the talks. I reject this last method, for I consider it destructive. Since the opposition cannot constitutionally prevent me from conducting such a policy, I have to pursue it. If you agree with this policy, I expect you to help me. [passage omitted]

[Danielyan] Following the president's speech, the session adjourned for two hours so the party and parliamentary groups could clarify their views and proposals and present them to the parliament. Following the recess, Deputy Grant Khachatryan presented the joint statement and a draft on the solution of Karabakh problem from seven out of eight parties and groups in the parliament. A separate draft was presented by the Armenian Pan-National Movement. The session again adjourned so the two draft resolutions could be harmonized and fused into a single draft. But the sides could not reach agreement during the recess and the parliament started debating the two drafts separately. The deputies will decide which draft to chose at tomorrow's session of the Supreme Soviet. [passage omitted]

Opposition Demands Resignation

LD2306131992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1220 GMT 23 Jun 92

[By ARMENPRESS-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Yerevan June 23 TASS—The Armenian opposition demanded at a parliamentary session on Tuesday [23 June] that President Levon Ter-Petrosyan resign because of undecisive actions in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Ter-Petrosyan, however, criticised the radical opposition for an unconstructive approach to the Karabakh problem and irresponsibility for the future of the nation. The Armenian president reiterated he is devoted to international norms of solving the crisis in the enclave.

Nagorno-Karabakh Leader Remarks

NC2306154592 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Yerevan, 23 Jun (ARMENPRES)—According to an Armenian Supreme Soviet Presidium decision, a three-day extraordinary session of the parliament was convened on 22 June to discuss the political aspects of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem.

Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan and Georgiy Petrosyan, acting Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] Supreme Soviet chairman, addressed the session. [passage omitted]

In recounting the position of Nagorno-Karabakh officials, Georgiy Petrosyan emphasized that Armenia and the Armenians of Nagorno- Karabakh must struggle together to liberate Nagorno-Karabakh. Nagorno-Karabakh is Armenia's little brother, but one that is coming into manhood, and therefore its views also should be considered. In arguing against participation in the Rome conference—this decision was adopted by the NKR Supreme Soviet Presidium—he noted that Nagorno-Karabakh cannot go to a conference in which the representative of the Azerbaijani community in Karabakh also will take part as a full participant with veto rights. In his opinion, such an approach does not contribute to the political solution of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem. [passage omitted]

President Heads Delegation to Black Sea Meeting

NC2306200592 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1730 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] An Armenian delegation headed by President Levon Ter-Petrosyan left for Turkey this evening to take part in the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Council meeting. Deputy Foreign Minister Arman Navasardyan, permanent representative to the Russian Federation Feliks Mamikonyan, and other officials are among the delegation.

Due to the health reasons, presidential adviser Ktritch Sardaryan did not go to Turkey.

Situation Along Border, Other Areas Reported

NC2406055592 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1330 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Dear listeners: We will now report on the incidents in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] and along Armenia's border with Azerbaijan.

Unfortunately, the international arrangements aimed at solving the Nagorno-Karabakh problem have not produced the necessary results. It is unknown whether the Minsk conference will be held. The main reason for this is that the Nagorno-Karabakh delegation has not been invited to attend the conference as an equal party; Azerbaijan wants the Nagorno-Karabakh delegation to attend strictly as an observer. The NKR leaders have objected to this, however, and say that they will only attend the conference as a party with equal authority. Several leaders of CSCE countries have realized that the conference cannot take place if Nagorno-Karabakh's demand is not met. Even if a conference were held, though, any decision adopted in the absence of competent Artsakh [Nagorno- Karabakh] officials will remain suspended, without any legal force. It is no coincidence that the Rome meeting was ineffective.

Meanwhile, combat operations continue in Nagorno-Karabakh. The usurping Azerbaijan Armed Forces are trying to hold the residential areas they have occupied and broaden their offensive. The incidents of the past few days, however, indicate that our neighboring republic's wide-ranging offensive has been stopped in all directions. Armenian self-defense forces have not only halted the enemy attacks, which were supported by Russian Army units based in Azerbaijan, but have also launched counterattacks in several parts of the front. They have inflicted casualties on the enemy forces, destroyed some of their combat equipment, and forced them to retreat from several residential areas and strategically important installations.

Violent clashes have taken place. Despite the Azerbaijan National Army being well-armed and possessing superior equipment, it is becoming increasingly obvious that the Armenian self-defense forces are seizing the initiative. NKR self-defense forces captured the outskirts of (Madavis) town in Mardakertskiy Rayon on 22 June. The Armenian freedom fighters dealt a strong blow to the enemy units and evicted them from their defensive positions in the upper [yukhary] areas of the town. The town and its surrounding area are now under the control of the Artsakh units. Azerbaijani units suffered many casualties during the clashes. According to unconfirmed reports, two Armenian freedom fighters were killed and three others wounded fighting for the (?heights).

Meanwhile, clashes continue around Mardakertskiy Rayon's (Kachevan) and Karmiravan towns, liberated from Azerbaijani units two days ago. Clashes are also continuing in the vicinity of Leninavan, which is still occupied. Armenian self-defense forces are fighting heroically to liberate their towns from the usurpers.

Askeranskiy Rayon is very tense. The enemy has been firing relentlessly on the rayon center and several residential areas with various types of weapons. No town in Askeranskiy Rayon has escaped damage. The Azerbaijani usurpers are threatening the peaceful residents and pursuing a policy of genocide against the Armenian people. Azerbaijan Armed Forces units launched wide-ranging attacks in Askeranskiy Rayon early on 21 June and during the following night after a seven-day lull in the fighting. Armenian self-defense forces repulsed the attacks, carried out with a large number of troops and combat vehicles, including tanks and armored vehicles. The enemy suffered many casualties in that sector of the front, while three Armenians were killed and six others wounded. Clashes are now taking place for positions in Askeranskiy Rayon.

Relentless clashes are also taking place in Martuninskiy Rayon. An Armenian freedom fighter was killed and 12 others wounded in military operations along the rayon's border during the past two days. No accurate information has been received on the number of Azerbaijani dead and wounded. Three men were wounded in a firefight that took place in (Khaty) town on the night of 20 June. Residential areas in [name indistinct] in Martuninskiy Rayon are under fire from Gulably and Abdal towns in Agdamskiy Rayon. Tens of houses and other installations have been damaged or destroyed as a result of the usurpers' crimes. Vartashen town in Martuninskiy Rayon came under rocket attack last night. Sixty rockets and missiles were fired at the town, killing four people and wounding three others. Three of the dead were women.

A firefight took place between Armenian self-defense forces in Martuninskiy city and Azerbaijani military units in Amiranlar town at 1400 on 21 June after the enemy fired on Armenian positions. The same day, Azerbaijani military units shelled the Alibeyli area. Armenian self-defense forces returned the fire and silenced the enemy positions. No accurate information has been obtained regarding enemy casualties.

Meanwhile, the NKR leaders are carrying out plans and taking measures to solve other problems in the NKR's central areas. The people are taking part actively in these measures, supporting their leaders' policies.

The situation in the Armenia-Azerbaijan border region remains tense. Kornidzor town in Gorisskiy Rayon came under fire from 2115 until midnight on 21 June. The fire came from enemy tanks in Mazmazad and Saf'yan towns in Azerbaijan. There was significant damage in Kornidzor town; six houses were destroyed. Armenian self-defense forces silenced the enemy positions. Enemy combat vehicles resumed their operations the next day, however, when they fired on the river [dere] near Kornidzor.

Agarak town in Megrinskiy Rayon came under fire yesterday from Ordubadskiy Rayon in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic. Shells exploded around the town. Meanwhile, Azerbaijani units have been firing on the bridge linking Armenia and Iran. Several shells fell near the border guard post on the Armenian side of the bridge. Shells also fell near the Iranian side of the bridge.

Periodic clashes have also occurred in other Armenian rayons along the Azerbaijani border. Tension continues to prevail due to Azerbaijan's continuing aggression.

Advance on Mardakert Halted

LD2406133492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1204 GMT 24 Jun 92

[By ARMENPRESS correspondent Aleksandr Grigoryan for TASS]

[Text] Yerevan, 24 Jun—Azerbaijan continues widescale military actions against Nagorno-Karabakh. Reports by the headquarters of the Nagorno-Karabakh self-defense forces testify to this. They note, in particular, that on 23 June the Azerbaijani National Army, equipped with over 50 tanks, several dozen units of armored equipment, six "MI-24" helicopters, and "SU-25" strategic attack aircraft, launched an offensive against the regional center of Mardakert. Fighting continued until this morning. Armenian detachments have managed to bring the enemy's advance to a halt, inflicting significant losses on its personnel and equipment. Among the defenders, 13 people died and 16 were wounded.

Yet another attack by Azerbaijani units has misfired on the approaches to the villages of Avdur and Norshen, Martininskiy Rayon. Local self-defense forces have retaliated.

Azerbaijan

Ministry Accuses Armenia of Violating Border

LD2306232192 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 2100 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] The Defense Ministry of Azerbaijan has declared that Armenian troops have violated the border between the two countries and invaded Azerbaijani territory. After several hours of stubborn fighting the attackers were thrown back to their positions. Besides, communities in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic of Azerbaijan came under mass fire from Armenian territory. There are great losses among the residents of the communities.

In return Armenia accused Azerbaijan of shelling communities in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh. Four civilians died as a result.

People's Deputy Appeals to CIS Unit Officers

LD2306125192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1557 GMT 22 Jun 92

[By AZERINFORM-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Baku, 22 Jun—"When leaving this region, one must leave behind here grains of good and peace, so that each of us, our children and grandchildren, has the right to step on this land," Major General Vladimir Timoshenko, people's deputy of Azerbaijan and member of the republic's National Assembly, stated in an appeal to the officers and warrant officers of the CIS troops stationed in Azerbaijan.

The general was prompted to make his appeal by the events which occurred in recent days in a number of these military units, where the servicemen destroyed equipment, gear, and buildings before being redeployed onto Russian territory. "Destiny has planned it so that each of you at various times has had to carry out a combat task on soil on which we have for many years eaten bread baked by the working folk of Azerbaijan," the appeal says. "I am convinced that I am voicing the general opinion, the general stressed, when I say that the majority of you, and members of your families, felt the genuine hospitality, responsiveness, goodness, and genuine love of this people."

The leadership of Azerbaijan—the appeal says—condemned the recent attacks on military installations, seizure of vehicles and weapons, and insults hurled at personnel from certain forces with an interest in worsening the situation in the republic. "And no private offense gives the right to commit vandalism in regard to things of value which belong to the Azerbaijani people," the general thinks.

Air Force Regiment Redeployed Due to Conditions

LD2406093792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0855 GMT 24 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Tkachenko]

[Text] Chelyabinsk June 24 TASS—An air regiment was re-deployed from Azerbaijan to the South Urals, the regional daily CHELYABINSK WORKER reported on Wednesday. It was warmly welcomed by local citizens: Many officers are graduates of the Chelyabinsk Higher Flight Engineers School.

The fathers of Yuzhnouralsk City and the Uvelsk District, where the regiment arrived, now have additional headaches. Servicemen and their families should be provided with accommodation. They will have to live in congested conditions for some time. But an apartment house will be turned over for occupancy by the end of the year.

In addition, the city authorities allocated a building site for individual houses, the construction of which will be funded by the Defence Ministry.

Speaking of the reasons for the re-deployment, the daily quotes Major Yuriy Kotov: "Living conditions for our families have deteriorated over the past few weeks. Water supplies and electricity were cut off from the military compound. There was nothing in our food store, apart from bread.

"We bought all foodstuffs at the market. Azeri young people started molesting our women. We were forced to request our command for re-deployment to Russia."

Specialists Analyze Military Developments

LD2306203292 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1821 GMT 23 Jun 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Stepanakert—In military experts' opinion, Azerbaijan's success in the June offensive in Nagorno-Karabakh [NKR] is not guaranteed.

Experts reckon that some success of Azerbaijan in the June offensive against Armenian armed units in Nagorno-Karabakh is accounted for by the use of armored machinery (tanks T-72, and combat infantry vehicles, types 1 and 2), the artillery system and rocket volley firing system.

While realizing the firing of the enemy, Azerbaijan side seized several villages of Madakert District in the north of Nagorno-Karabakh. Military specialists reckon, however, that Azeris' success in the area of the village of Nakhichevan is more dangerous for the Armenians, as this area is a kind of abdomen of the central part of Nagorno-Karabakh, where Stepanakert, Shusha, Khodzhaly are situated. However, recently the rates of the Azerbaijani offensive have slowed down, and it is only firing that is exerted on the enemy.

As is known, on May 15 in Tashkent an agreement was reached between the Russian and Azerbaijani sides on the transfer to the Republic of Azerbaijan of part of the military machinery of the 4th Army, which has considerably increased the power of Azerbaijani units. Part of military machinery was acquired illegally. During the four months of this year, 85 attacks on the facilities of the 4th Army were committed, with a seizure of 4 rocket units BM-21 grad, 14 tanks, 96 combat infantry vehicles, over 40 armored personnel carriers and combat reconnaissance patrol cars, some 3,000 units of the firearms. This quantity of the arms is enough to raise several efficient battalions. However, according to the military experts' data, the seized machinery by the end of May of this year was wrecked because of unskillful maintenance.

In addition, filling up of officers' vacancies is also not good for the Azeris. Whereas in the united Armed Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States there are approximately equal shares of Armenians and Azeris among the officers, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry informs that the posts beginning from deputy regiment commander and above were taken by only 9 Azeris. That is why there is a sharp shortage of the officers who are able to head the military units. This problem is solved through enrollment on the contract basis of the officers from other armies of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Contracts are also concluded with Russian servicemen who wished to stay in Azerbaijan. Military experts reckon that nearly 10 per cent of the officers of the 4th Army can move to the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan. Until now, over 300 people have agreed to do it.

However, the experts reckon that in June Azeris will hardly reach all the aims, as it takes at least several months for the units to become well-coordinated. They reckon that battles for the villages of Madakert district (at 60-80 km from Stepanakert) lead most probably to exhaustion of the armed units of the enemies, to bloodshed, but not to seizure of strategic places, which means, in the long run, that Nagorno-Karabakh problem will be solved by the military way, experts think that battles in Askeran District are more favorable for Azerbaijan. This district is situated in 20-25 km from Stepanakert and in 30 km from Shusha. However, in their opinion, the Armenian military leaders in Nagorno-Karabakh understand dangers which comes from this direction. Provided a strong anti-tank defense is set up, the roads can be protected securely. Military experts forecast a prolonged bloody war, if a political solution to the problem of Nagorno-Karabakh is not found. Besides, although the manpower (6.5 million of people in Azerbaijan and 3.5 million of people in Armenia), the industrial potential and oil of its own are in favor of Azerbaijan, the military power is to a certain extent on the side of Armenia.

Further Reportage on Shelling, Fighting

NC2406064592 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1900 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Uninterrupted shelling is continuing along the Azerbaijan-Armenia border. The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry told an AZERINFORM correspondent that Armenian units violated Azerbaijan's border and penetrated into Kedabakskiy Rayon late on the night of 22 June. The attackers were repulsed after a violent clash, which lasted for several hours.

Meanwhile, residential areas in Ordubadskiy Rayon's border region have come under intensive fire from Armenia's Megrinskiy Rayon. Initial reports say that several people have been killed. Azerbaijani Armed Forces units were forced to return the fire.

The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry has disclosed that Armenian military units and armored vehicles are being massed on the border. Armed Armenian groups are being transported to the mountainous region in Karabakh. The arms brought to this region from the neighboring republic were used in Fizulinskiy Rayon a day before they were dispatched to Karabakh. The rayon center was shelled with artillery from Armenian towns near Karabakh.

Battle Situation Updated

NC2406063592 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] The Analytical Information Center of the Azerbaijani Ministry of Defense announced the following on 23 June:

Azerbaijan Armed Forces units have intensified their combat operations in the Yukhary Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabakh] region. Enemy forces massed in Karmiravan town were destroyed and the town was completely liberated on 20 June. Azerbaijani Armed Forces units advanced on the Agdere Rayon center on 20 June, overcoming enemy resistance in various areas. Violent clashes are continuing, but the enemy is no longer able to resist our heroic forces.

On 20 June our fighters destroyed the fortifications around (Atesh) town, an enemy stronghold between Terterskiy and Kelbadzharsakiy Rayons. The enemy is retreating across the entire front.

The enemy shelled (Melikhanlar) town from the direction of Agdam city at 1400 on 20 June. Two members of our heroic militia forces were martyred and four others wounded in the clashes. Our fighters quickly silenced the enemy positions. The situation in Agdamskiy Rayon is now relatively calm. Clashes are continuing, however, in the vicinity of Askeranskiy Rayon.

The Armenians tried to shell Fizulinskiy Rayon from Agbulak [word indistinct] on the evening on 22 June. Vigilant Azerbaijan National Army units retaliated, destroying an artillery gun and a combat vehicle. Meanwhile, [words indistinct] the enemy in the direction of Gadrut city.

The enemy [words indistinct] in Dzhebrailskiy Rayon on the evening on 22 June. Field defense units in the rayon quickly repulsed the enemy attack. The Armenians fired on Mursel town near Kelbadzhar city from Agdelen town on 20 June. Defensive units in Kelbadzhar city completely destroyed the enemy.

The situation along the republic's border with Armenia remains tense. Firing continues unabated in Zangelanskiy Rayon. Armed Armenian units massed in Armenia's Megrinskiy and Kapanskiy Rayons are firing relentlessly on Yukhary (Yonezly), Kazanchi, [name indistinct], (Minkyshlakh), Adem, and [name indistinct] towns with various types of weapons. Although the situation remains tense, our fighters are prepared to repulse the enemy attack.

Enemy units fired on (Tereli) town in Kubatlinskiy Rayon, Khasanly and [name indistinct] towns in Tavuzskiy Rayon, and [name indistinct] town in Kedabekskiy Rayon with various types of weapons on the night of 22 June. Our fighters returned the fire and forced the enemy to retreat in all directions.

Meanwhile, reports we have received from the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic [NAR] say that enemy forces are periodically shelling the border towns in Ordubadskiy Rayon. Ordubad city was shelled at 1850 on 20 June. The fire was returned and the enemy was silenced. Relative calm prevails in other areas of the NAR.

Our fighters in Kazakhskiy, Akchapa, Kelbadzharskiy, and Terterskiy Rayons are continuing to reinforce their defensive fortifications.

Aliyev Says Food Running Out in Nakhichevan

LD2406112292 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 24 Jun 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Geydar Aliyev, chairman of the Nakhichevan Supreme Soviet, stated that foodstuffs are running out in Nakhichevan as a result of the Armenian blockade. In an interview to Turkish radio, Aliyev said Armenians have blocked all roads leading to Nakhichevan from Azerbaijan.

Nakhichevan Denies Offensive Against Armenia

OW2406120692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1130 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The press center of the majlis (parliament) of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic has denied reports about an offensive which the Azeri formations are planning to launch on Armenia's Megri region from Nakhichevan in order to link Nakhichevan up with the rest of Azerbaijan.

The statement by the press center says that such provocative reports are a brazen lie, whose goal is to conceal from the world public Armenia's continuing armed aggression against Nakhichevan.

Armenian Attacks on Nakhichevan Reported

TA2306205192 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 2000 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Armenians today again opened fire on Azerbaijani soldiers near Sadarak in Nakhichevan. According to ANATOLIA, the Azerbaijanis returned fire when the Armenians opened fire around noon today. One Azerbaijani soldier was killed in the clash. The report noted that the clashes lasted a short time and the Armenian attack was stopped. [passage omitted]

Georgia

Official Previews Dagomys Summit on Ossetias

LD2306200992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 23 Jun 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Tomorrow's meeting between Yeltsin, Shevardnadze, and representatives of the two Ossetias to resolve the South Ossetian crisis was thrown in doubt today. Eduard Shevardnadze stated that since the news on Channel One reported that the issue of Georgia's membership of the United Nations has been postponed at Russia's suggestion, he will not go to the meeting with Yeltsin. Exactly the same information from the United Nations could have been obtained from at least a dozen sources.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent N. Gongadze] Georgia is placing great hopes in the forthcoming meeting between Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the republic's State Council, and Russian President Boris Yeltsin in Dagomys. You see, the talks promise to promote a settlement to the Tskhinvali conflict, the basic elements of which were stipulated back in Kazbeg. Are the rumors that Russia opposed Georgia's membership of the United Nations Organization true?

[A. Chikovaidze, Georgian first acting deputy prime minister and foreign minister] One is often amazed where unchecked information comes from. I had a conversation today with Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev, and he told me in reply to my direct question that nothing like that had happened, that Russia is not preparing to oppose Georgia's membership in the United Nations and that this issue will be examined on the 25th.

[Gongadze] Will the meeting between Eduard Amvrosiyevich Shevardnadze and Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin take place tomorrow?

[Chikovaidze] Yes, without doubt it will take place. The meeting is scheduled for 1000 and our delegation is ready to travel there and to be at the meeting. The talks apparently will be very thorough. Evidently there are not only bilateral relations here, but issues connected with our region will be examined in a complex. I think that these will be very serious, profound talks because first and foremost we are neighbors, and it is inconceivable that we should build our future without the right mutual relations. [Video shows Shevardnadze with Sigua and other officials, interview with Chikovaidze] [end recording]

Gamsakhurdia Forces Seize TV, Announce Return

LD2606053892 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0506 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Report by Vladimir Mezentsev from Batumi, western Georgia]

[Text] According to verified reports, in the early hours of this morning, supporters of former Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia seized the TV center in Tbilisi. According to reports from reliable sources, the seizure took place through peaceful means with no casuaities. On Georgian radio at 0600 this morning, Georgian Supreme Soviet Deputy Valter Shurgaya spoke. I know him as a vehement champion of the overthrown president. Shurgaya annouced the return of Zviad Gamsakhurdia to Tbilisi. The deputy also called on all of Kitovani's guardsmen to come to the building housing the TV and radio department. They are promised a pardon by Gamsakhurdia and his supporters. According to information from the local KGB, the forces of the

Georgian State Council are so far taking a wait and see attitude. In Batumi, where I am now, the transmissions of Georgian TV and radio have been cut. That is all so far on that.

More on TV Center Takeover

LD2406074492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] The IPRINDA agency has more details on the earlier reports about the terrorist action by supporters of ex-President Gamsakhurdia in Tbilisi. According to IPRINDA, a group of 200-300 armed militants, having captured a tank belonging to the 8th CIS Regiment, took over the Tbilisi television and radio center during the night of Sunday-Monday [as heard]. Because the television was shut off, Zviadists read an anti-government statement addressed to the Georgian population over the radio. At present units from the republican guard are storming the television center in the capital.

An IPRINDA correspondent has also learned that a group of Zviadists is heading toward the television center building. The ex-president's supporters have put children in the front row of the column. According to the agency, all the Georgian leadership headed by Eduard Shevardnadze is in Tbilisi. Shevardnadze is not postponing his trip to Dagomys but the time of his departure will depend on the situation in Tbilisi.

By the way, Eduard Shevardnadze has said that the main aim of his talks with Boris Nikolayevich is to establish a lasting peace in the conflict zone. He told a Budapest radio correspondent that if Russian and Georgian troops were to engage in the conflict, it could overflow beyond both Georgia and Russia.

Gamsakhurdia Aide Calls For Rally

AU2406140692 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0200 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Speech by Valter Shurgaya, former Georgian Supreme Council deputy and chairman of the Georgian Committee for National Disobedience in Tbilisi—live]

[Excerpts] Georgians and non-Georgians who love Georgia should come to the television building and hold a rally. We must remember our old experience. With unified efforts and spiritual unity we must restore lawfulness in Georgia. We have to send an appeal, an invitation to the Georgian president, to come and occupy his post so that we can begin our work.

I want to say now that all armed persons, members of the National Guard, the militia, representatives of the internal troops, or any other armed units who will support the lawful government as of today will be freed from responsibility for actions committed against the authorities. I wish to emphasize that there is a presidential decree on this, dear friends, that concerns all armed formations—the Guard, internal troops, the militia, etc. I particularly call on the Guard, militia, and internal troops. Our main goal is to restore lawfulness to Georgia peacefully. There will be no retribution, no punishment for those who will support us, dear friends, [words indistinct] take into account. The militia is to fulfill its duties [words indistinct]. Their task must be to defend lawfulness and order in the city and generally throughout the Republic and to support the legal authorities.

Today is a historic day. It will be written permanently into Georgian history [words indistinct]. Perhaps my thoughts are not being enunciated (?well) at this moment, I mean from the linguistic point of view, for which I apologize. One has to understand my position. Dear friends, I repeat: Whoever loves Georgia, whoever considers himself to be a real, true, and genuine patriot, should come to the front of the television building where a big meeting will be held, views will be exchanged, and an invitation will be sent to the Georgian president.

I emphasize once more that we have great hope in the Georgian National Guard, the internal troops, and the militia. We hope that they will stand by us.

I now want to read—more correctly, repeat—two decrees by the president:

A decree by the president of Georgia:

Any representatives of business circles, businessmen, or traders who will support the lawful authorities as of today and who will prove their loyalty with their actions, will be freed from responsibility for acts committed in the past against the authorities.

[Signed] Zviad Gamsakhurdia, president of the Republic of Georgia
[Dated] 24 June 1992 [passage omitted]

A decree by the president of Georgia:

Any representatives of the National Guard, militia, internal troops, or any other armed formations who will support the lawful authorities as of today and will prove their loyalty with their actions will be freed from responsibility for acts committed in the past against the authorities.

[Signed] Zviad Gamsakhurdia, president of the Republic of Georgia
[Dated] 24 June 1992

TV Takeover Detailed

LD2406092792 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] According to the NEGA agency, a group of about 300 of Zviad Gamsakhurdia's supports, plus, according to some reports, 500 other people, have seized the Georgian television building. The building is still occupied by these people.

This action is led by Valter Shurgaya, one of Gamsakhurdia's most loyal supporters and chairman of the West Georgian committee for civil disobedience to the new government.

According to initial reports, two persons have been killed—a National Guardsman and a woman who was passing by.

The building of the television tower [words indistinct].

Georgian government troops, with four tanks and two armored personnel carriers, have surrounded the building of the state radio and television. The building is under constant machine-gun fire from a government militia helicopter.

Here is a report by EKSPRES-KHRONIKA: There is fighting in the streets of Tbilisi. We also have a report of an interview given to Georgian television by Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian State Council, about the seizure of the television studios and the television tower, which reads as follows:

Question: Did you expect such a situation to emerge?

Answer: It could have been expected.

Question: Can it be assumed that the ex-president is trying to obstruct your meeting with President Yeltsin in Dagomys?

Answer: It is quite possible that this speeded up their action.

Question: How you think this will all end?

Answer: With their being disarmed. I do not just mean the confiscation of their weapons. These forces have no support whatsoever, because the people have seen their true face and know what they are.

ADN Reports Seizure of Tbilisi Airport

LD2406065992 Berlin ADN in German 0551 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Tbilisi/Moscow (ADN)—During the night, supporters of ousted Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia carried out an attempted coup of the Caucasus republic's leadership under head of state Eduard Shevardnadze. The Georgian news agency IPRINDA told ADN's Moscow office that at around 0400 local time, over 300 armed sympathizers of the head of state ousted in January occupied the television and radio center in the Georgian capital. There were casualties. The rebels went on the air several times and appealed to the inhabitants of Tbilisi to gather in front of the building and demanded that Gamsakhurdia be reinstated as president.

According to the information from Tbilisi, the Gamsakhurdia supporters are also said to control the city's airport. The situation in the city is confused. There is information that ex- President Gamsakhurdia is in Tbilisi. A spokesman for the Georgian mission in Moscow told ADN that the State Council met for a crisis session in Tbilisi this morning in order to discuss the situation in the city. He could not say whether head of state Eduard Shevardnadze has postponed the meeting scheduled with Russian President Boris Yeltsin at the Black Sea resort of Dagomys this morning.

Shevardnadze Announces Emergency Measures

LD2406075492 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0730 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] A fresh report has come in from Tbilisi. At dawn today an armed group of supporters of the former president of Georgia broke into the capital, disarmed an Internal Troops subunit, and seized the television tower and a television studio. A number of people were injured during the skirmish. Statements were broadcast over television and radio calling for armed action.

State Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze has made a radio address to the Georgian population, calling on the people not to yield to provocations and to maintain calm and good order. He announced that emergency measures are being taken to nip this escapade in the bud and gave assurances that the government has all the necessary forces and means to restore order at its disposal. A special headquarters has been set up. Given these events, Eduard Shevardnadze has postponed his departure for Dagomys to meet with Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Ultimatum Issued

LD2406084392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] The Georgian authorities have issued an ultimatum to the group of Zviadist supporters which has seized the TV center. The ultimatum expires at 1200 [0800 GMT]. If by that time Zviad's supporters do not lay down their arms and surrender to the authorities, the National Guard will take the TV center by assault. The ultimatum was signed by State Council Deputy Chairman Jaba Ioseliani, Defense Minister Tengiz Kitovani, and Interior Minister Gventadze. The TV and radio center building is surrounded by government troops. Cheidze, Georgia's permanent representative in Moscow, told INTERFAX that Eduard Shevardnadze still plans to fly to Dagomys today as soon as the situation that emerged in Tbilisi overnight has settled.

Guards Fire at 'Zviadists'

LD2406092492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Report from Tbilisi by IPRINDA correspondent Dzurab Dvali]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] On 24 June a number of armored personnel carriers of the Georgian National Guard lined up by the television center and began firing at the opposition Zviadists. A large part of the surrounding area is cordoned off by armed policemen. Police helicopters are circling over the center of Tbilisi. The situation is extremely complex. Supporters of the ex-president among the residents of Tbilisi are trying to get through to the television center, but their actions are being decisively stopped by the law enforcement bodies. The government armed formations are in extremely determined mood. According to the Transcaucasus Military District Intelligence, the Zviadists' tank was seized not from the CIS army stationed on Georgian territory, but from a Georgian armed sub-unit. The latest reports indicate that this tank has been put out of action and is on fire outside the television center. At 1030 Georgian State Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze spoke on Georgian radio to announce that the government has the situation in hand and will make all efforts to disarm this group.

Shevardnadze Says 'Game Is Over,' Departs

LD2406094192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0911 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] We are interrupting our music programming for another urgent report frm Tbilisi. Following the liberation of the TV tower which was seized at dawn, Georgian State Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze came out of the State Council building to address the people assembled outside. The game is over, he said, announcing that the operation to free the television center was going successfully. After this he left for the airport to leave for Dagomys to meet Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Leader of Gamsakhurdia Supporters Detained

LD2406112792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1038 GMT 24 Jun 92

[By SAKINFORM correspondent Vladimir Golovin]

[Text] Tbilisi, June 24 TASS—Armed supporters of ousted Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who occupied Tbilisi's television and radio department earlier today, gave in after authorities submitted them an ultimatum.

Their leader Valter Shurgaya, one of Gamsakhurdia's closest aides, who organized civil disobedience campaigns in western Georgia, has been detained. He left the building holding a grenade in hand, but did not explode it.

Earlier authorities drew the rebels out of the local television tower. The number of victims is still unclear.

Shevardnadze Appeals to Georgians To Unite

LD2406141992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1328 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Moscow, 24 Jun (ITAR-TASS)—Today Eduard Shevardnadze appealed to his fellow countrymen to be "sober and calm and once more to unite." "Our unity, your strongly united ranks, will save Georgia," reads a statement by the chairman of the Republic's State Council, circulated today by its permanent mission in Moscow.

"Gangs of supporters of the former president timed their rash action to coincide with the meeting set for 24 June between the chairman of the Georgian State Council and the Russian president," the statement reads. "One of the main aims of their adventurist plan was to upset this meeting." "The conspirators' plans were not destined to come to fruition. Our course aimed at building a democratic, humanist, highly ordered, and organized state remains unchanged," it notes.

In Shevardnadze's words, "the meeting in Dagomys could be of vital significance for Georgia." "I am sure the talks with President Yeltsin and other Russian leaders will bring good to our long-suffering country."

News Conference Explains TV Center Events

LD2406132192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1233 GMT 24 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Gvritishvili]

[Text] Moscow, 24 Jun—Petr Chkheidze, Georgia's permanent representative in Moscow, has described the seizure of the television center in Tbilisi by supporters of former Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia as a profound provocation aimed at destabilizing the situation in Georgia and foiling the talks expected to be held by Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Georgian State Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze in Dagomys today.

At a news conference today, he said the television center and the television tower, which were taken by about 400 attackers in all, have been freed by the National Guard. During the operation, about 40 people died and more than 100 were injured. The permanent representative could not confirm which of the sides have suffered the losses. Valter Shurgaya, former deputy of the Georgian Supreme Soviet, who organized the attack, and 27 of his supporters have been arrested. Petr Chkheidze added that Shurgaya is the chief initiator of the actions by Zviadists in western Georgia and recent terrorist acts in Tbilisi and other towns of the republic.

Russian Forces Said Maintaining Neutrality

LD2406100292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0835 GMT 24 Jun 92

[By SAKINFORM correspondent Vladimir Golovin]

[Text] Tbilisi, 24 Jun (TASS)—"The Russian Army troops stationed on Georgian territory have nothing to do with the armed conflict in Tbilisi," said Colonel Dolgachev, head of the press center of the Transcaucasus Military District. It has already been reported that last night a group of supporters of deposed Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia seized the building of the television and radio department, and the television tower. They appealed to the population to gather by the building of the department and demand that the present authority be toppled and Gamsakhurdia restored.

According to Dolgachev, there have been no attacks on Russian units and sub-units. "We are maintaining complete neutrality, and do not interfere in the internal affairs of the sovereign republic of Georgia," said the colonel. "Naturally we did not give any weapons to supporters of Zviad Gamsakhurdia, and we will not take any action, no matter who asks for help."

Colonel G. Belchenko refuted rumors that equipment captured from the 8th Regiment of Internal Troops of the CIS was used by the supporters of the former president during the seizure of the television and radio department. "This regiment has been withdrawn from Georgian territory, where there is not a single regiment of internal CIS troops at the moment," he said.

S. Ossetian Leaders Urge Russians To Intervene

LD2406123692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1109 GMT 24 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, June 24 TASS—Alarming reports are coming from the Tskhinvali district where bloodshed continues. Reports of the South Ossetian parliament and of the North Ossetian Security Ministry say that Georgian armed units were shelling Tskhinvali last night from the side of villages of the Gori district. There are civilian casualties. Five people were killed, 13 others heavily wounded.

Advance of Georgian armed units was noticed. The same sources report that an address to Georgian national guards was broadcast on Georgian Radio. They were urged to seize Tskhinvali and later the entire territory of South Ossetia.

In this critical situation leaders of the republic sent an address to the Russian president, the Russian Government asking that a motorised rifle division be immediately sent into the Tskhinvali zone for the disengagement of the warring sides and putting an end to the fighting, Rezo Khugayev, first deputy chairman of the South Ossetian Council of Ministers, told ITAR-TASS.

Khugayev said that more than 700 peaceful people were killed during the Ossetian-Georgian armed conflict. More than 1.5 thousand people sustained severe wounds. Hundreds of people were taken hostage. 120 are missing. More than 100 thousand Ossets were driven from their native lands. The industrial infrastructure of the republic has been fully destroyed. Tskhinvali is in ruins. 80 per cent of the housing stock has been destroyed and burnt down. All important economic facilities have been damaged.

Abkhaz Guards Seize Internal Affairs Building

LD2406121692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1110 GMT 24 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Gvritishvili]

[Text] Moscow, 24 Jun—Armed formations subordinate to the Supreme Soviet of the Abkhaz ASSR (Abkhaz National Guard, comprised of individuals of Abkhaz nationality) seized the building of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Abkhazia (a republic which is part of Georgia) today. G. Lomenadze, the Abkhaz minister of internal affairs, and his deputies were detained and beaten up during the course of this action. Sergey Bagapsh, the deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Abkhaz ASSR and Aleksandr Ankvab, a Supreme Soviet deputy, actively participated in this provocative act.

Representatives of the "Democratic Abkhazia" faction have stated that the escalation of tension in the region was started in the autonomous republic by Abkhaz nationalist, separatist circles, against the background of the complex sociopolitical situation both in the Republic of Georgia and in the Abkhaz ASSR and of the hypocritical statements by Ardzinba, the chairman of the Supreme Soviet, about the striving for political dialogue and peace between ethnic groups. Representatives of the faction of deputies have stated that all responsibility for what has occurred and the possible consequences may be placed with Vladislav Ardzinba, the chairman of the Abkhaz Supreme Soviet.

Leaders Cited on Russian Role in Conflict Areas

LD2306145292 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1249 GMT 23 Jun 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Chisinau-Tbilisi—President Mircea Snegur: Conflicts occur in places where Russia's troops are stationed which is suggestive of the idea that Russian authorities provoke conflicts to retain control over the independent republics.

PF [POSTFACTUM] was also told at the Georgian state council press center that during the telephone conversation between the Moldova president and chairman of the Georgian state council Eduard Shevardnadze during the early hours of June 21 over the statement of Russia's Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy made at the session of the Russian Government on June 20 Mircea Snegur also said: The independent republics—CIS members and non-members continue to meet with manifestations of Russia's imperial thinking, with attempts to use force in settling conflicts....Aleksandr Rutskoy manipulating lofty words about democracy and human rights supports the forces in the conflict areas that are opposed to democratic changes, flagrantly violating human rights....Russia is supporting authoritarian, neo-communist circles. This primarily presents danger to Russia itself where certain circles are searching for new enemies to eventually put an end to democracy and reformism Russia and restore a totalitarian militaristic regime there.

Eduard Shevardnadze agreed with this assessment of what was going on. He said, in particular: It is important now for the people in Russia and the world public to have a true and objective information about what was going on in Georgia and Moldova. It would be good if in the conflict areas there were observers from the CSCE member-states. Georgia would welcome a visit by a UN special representative for him to establish facts on site and see for himself Georgia's seeking to settle the Georgian-Ossetian conflict in a peaceful way, through dialogue at the negotiations table.

The leaders of the two states said they were interested in putting an end to intrigues and politicking around the conflicts that bring grief and suffering to the peoples of Georgia and Moldova.

Estonia

Republic Becomes 160th Member of World Bank

LD2306223392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2143 GMT 23 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Matyash]

[Text] Washington June 23 TASS—The Estonian Republic became the 160th member of the World Bank today. The Estonian Ambassador to the United States signed the bank's charter. Estonia contributed 282,889 U.S. dollars to the bank's fund as its financial obligations to this financial institution.

"We seek to become Estonia's partners in its drive to overhaul the economy," World Bank President Lewis Preston said at a ceremony in the bank's headquarters. "This cooperation will not only help raise the welfare of its citizens but will also serve for the good of all who will reap benefits from this country's integration into the world economy," he said.

Kroon Exchange Rate To Be Announced Daily

LD2306203492 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1400 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] We will be reporting the Estonian kroon's [EK] daily exchange rates starting from today. The rate against the German mark has not changed. One dollar is 12.5560 EK; one Finnish mark is 2.930 EK; one Swedish krona is 2.2152 EK; one British pound sterling is 23.3760 EK; one French franc is 2.376 EK; and one Japanese yen 0.09884 EK.

Agreement Signed With Russia on New Currency

LD2306174492 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1639 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Tallinn—Galina Litvinova, deputy president of the Bank of Estonia: Russian Central Bank did not believe in kroon's reality until recent times and did not take up seriously the question of division of the monetary circulation of the two countries. On June 21, at a press-conference Galina Litvinova also said that on June 20 in Moscow documents on mutual commitments of Estonian and Russian governments due to introduction of the kroon, on payments, and a protocol on settlements' organization between the banks were signed.

At present, Litvinova said, Russian Central Bank has expressed its readiness to open its branch in Estonian Republic. The Estonian Republic has agreed to this proposal, but the technical details have not been cleared up as yet.

Russians Reportedly 'Running Out of Patience'

PM2306110092 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Jun 92 First Edition p 5

[Correspondent Yuriy Stroganov report: "Russians in Estonia Are Running Out of Patience"]

[Text] Tallinn—Has a real mutual understanding been reached between the leaders of the mainly Russian-speaking northeast of Estonia and the representatives of parliament? It would be nice to hope that the document they adopted is a step toward compromise. But will radical forces take this into account?

Because of tension in relations between the inhabitants of Narva and Sillamae and official Tallinn, which was on the brink of depriving many people of their rights because of discriminatory enactments on citizenship, an explosive situation had been created in those cities, exacerbated by the economic crisis. Even Mart Nutt, member of the Estonian delegation to the CSCE conference in Helsinki, admitted that foreign workers—and almost all the inhabitants of the northeast could find themselves in that position—face a more acute threat of unemployment than Estonians. True, he also noted that foreign workers wishing to work in Estonia while remaining citizens of their own states will be allowed to do so, and will be guaranteed all human rights and social guarantees in accordance with the practice of democratic states.

However, the nonindigenous inhabitants of Narva and Sillamae, who have constructed plants, factories, and power stations here and built cities, do not wish to be regarded as foreigners in a land that long ago became their homeland. But the new laws place insuperable barriers in front of the majority of them. And therefore the trade unions have declared readiness for a general strike, knowing that for little Estonia to be deprived of the power from the northeastern power stations would be disastrous. A two-hour warning strike demonstrated the seriousness of their intentions, and a joint commission was set up consisting of representatives of the municipalities of Narva and Sillamae, the Narva trade union center, and the Russian Democratic Movement, and the republic Supreme Council.

Step Taken Toward Compromise

The commission sent to the republic government and the Supreme Council proposals from the representatives of the northeast and the Russian Democratic Movement of Estonia for settling the question of Estonian citizenship. The population of the northeast is running out of patience. Former Prime Minister E. Savisaar warned of the possibility of serious upheavals in the region, even going so far as secession, in the event of discriminatory decisions with regard to the Russian-speaking population and pressure on them from the national radicals. Dire warnings that northeastern Estonia could turn into another Dniester, which at first seemed unlikely, are beginning to look increasingly realistic, although local leaders claim they are opposed to seceding from the republic.

Alas, realities are often stronger than good intentions. The appearance of pamphlets from the Russian National Party, the Party of Working People of Estonia, and so forth comes as no surprise. The radical Committee of Citizens of Estonia, which refuses to recognize the right to citizenship even for those nonindigenous people who could enjoy that right, calls into being the Committee of Noncitizens of Estonia.

Confrontation? Certainly!

Will those involved take advantage of the real opportunity to put out the small fire that has flared up in the northeast of a little state on the very border of its giant neighbor?

Towns Seek Role in Talks

LD2206210692 Tallinn Radio Estonia in English 1520 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] The Coordination Commission of the municipalities of Narva and Sillamae and (the) Russian Democratic Movement issued a joint statement requiring the participation of their representatives in Estonian-Russian negotiations. Narva and Sillamae are northeast Estonian towns populated with Russians mostly. The statement says that so far no reply has been given to the commission's proposals about the citizenship question. The statement also claims that since the work of the Estonian Supreme Council commission for the status of non-citizens has yielded no results the Russian community is forced to find other means for settling their problems.

Latvia

Supreme Council Chairman on Swiss Symposium

LD2206165692 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 2000 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Excerpts] On the afternoon of 21 June, a delegation from the Republic of Latvia returned home from Switzerland. Led by Supreme Council Chairman Anatolijs Gorbunovs, the representatives of Latvia participated in an annual symposium organized by the [name indistinct] fund. At the airport Gorbunovs informed us on what took place in Switzerland.

[Begin Gorbunovs recording] To a certain extent, the meeting was devoted to all the problems of Europe, especially the Baltics. This was an excellent opportunity for us to talk about our present and our future as we see it. Everybody was able to hear and assess it.

After our addresses, the representative of Azerbaijan called on the leaders of the other CIS states to recall their officers from the Baltics. Evidently we were heard. The vice president of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development participated. Hearing about our political situation in connection with the former USSR troops, he expressed his stand there that this bank might help if we officially apply. We did. Ruutel, Landsbergis, and I signed a letter to this bank to promote the withdrawal of the Russian troops by allocating means for housing construction. [passage omitted]

Those advocates who have been here in the Baltics and in Riga, and who are speaking specifically about Latvia, are calling on Europe to distinguish Latvia from Estonia and Lithuania, to distinguish that we have different circumstances and a different situation, and to appraise and assist us by taking into consideration our specific situation. That testifies to positive signs in the attitude toward our policy. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Further Comments on Symposium

LD2206202692 Riga Radio Riga Network in Russian 0800 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Interview with Latvian Deputy Foreign Minister Maris Gailis by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Latvian Deputy Foreign Minister Maris Gailis expressed his assessment on the work of the symposium.

[Gailis] This conference was very interesting. It was of value in that perhaps under less constrained or more unconstrained circumstances, the leaders of four states, at the level of president, met. There were several foreign ministers and several prime ministers. It was, at least for me, again an opportunity to talk about our possibilities, by advertising Latvia more as a suitable and good place for investment.

I would like to say that for the first time at the highest level, a conversation, though very brief, took place, and served as the first step in relations between Latvia and Iran. We agreed that we will exchange delegations and will begin a debate on concluding two agreements, which we are now concluding, one after another, with many states—economic cooperation and trade, and protection of investments.

[Correspondent] How do you, as a deputy foreign minister, precisely assess that submission to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development on the promotion of army withdrawal here in Latvia and in the Baltics?

[Gailis] I think that these are already the consequences, evidently, of a process which has begun, and I am optimistically, as usual, assessing all that. It appears to me that it was not by accident that Mr. Nemeth, the vice president of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, practically offered financial assistance for the withdrawal of the army from the Baltic states. For this issue to be raised at the big G-7, perhaps may be some kind of a positive step in our—one could say—chief problem.

Lithuania

Government Wants Troop Issue Included in CSCE

OW2206224092 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1809 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Lithuania will seek to have the issue of the withdrawal of formerly Soviet troops from the Baltics included in the final document of the Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe which will be held July 9-10. The timetable of the withdrawal will be offered by Lithuania, while Russia will have to strictly follow it, head of the Lithuanian delegation for the conference Valdemaras Katkus told the republican radio.

In his opinion, the results of the June 14 referendum on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Lithuania in 1992 would be "of great help" in that issue.

Council Discusses Army Measures, Border Control

LD2306192392 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network
in Lithuanian 1200 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] At today's briefing by the Supreme Council, press attache Audrius Azubalis acquainted journalists with yesterday's meeting of the provisional military council for the defense of Lithuania.

[Azubalis] At yesterday's meeting of the provisional defense committee of the Republic of Lithuania measures that Lithuania might use against the introduction of new army units under Russian jurisdiction were discussed. The introduction of new units into Lithuania continues despite assurances by the Russian president that this would not happen. By this I mean assurances that Supreme Council Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis received from the Russian President during their last meeting.

The possibility of exerting control over air transport was discussed. Discussions also took place on how to carry out control over the servicemen who are under Russia's jurisdiction and who are stationed in Lithuania while they are on territory belonging to their units.

The provisional council for the defense of Lithuania also discussed how to implement our immigration laws and to control passengers from the east and going to the west. At present our services controlling passengers on our western borders are working well. Unfortunately, this is not the case on our eastern borders.

[Announcer] As I understand it, the control on our eastern borders will be stricter.

[Azubalis] Yes. This is not just because of political motives, but if we recall the latest reports from our Ministry of Internal Affairs and other services, there is a possibility that drug traffickers from the territory of the former Soviet Union are investigating us. They are making test runs to our country. Others want to use Lithuanain territory for transit to reach the west. These people are not only residents of Asia but also of Africa. These discussions are well founded.

Lithuania Intends To Invest in Russian Oil

OW1906194892 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1827 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Lithuanian government has signed a protocol of intentions with two Russian privately-owned commercial oil companies—the Russian-American joint venture "RusCANA" and Sakhalin-based company "Shelf". The signing took place in Vilnius yesterday, June 18. On the Lithuanian side, the protocol was signed by deputy ministers for economics and energetics Vytas Navickas and Robertas Tamosiunas and presidents Boris Grinberg and Salman Dzangiyev [names as received] signed it on behalf of their companies.

Lithuania intends to set up a specialized investment company in cooperation with them.

In an interview for the BALTFAX correspondent Mr Navickas said "Lithuania could purchase a considerable share of the companies' stocks". Once the republic becomes a stock-holder, it could start selling oil abroad for hard currency, purchasing it afterwards for low prices in Bashkortostan or Tyumen.

The Lithuanian state budget earmarks 258 mn rubles as the investments into Russia's oil companies in 1992.

Polish Lithuanians Seek Minority, Human Rights

LD2306172492 Warsaw PAP in English
1615 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Vilnius, June 23—The 2nd Conference of Poles of Europe held outside Vilnius, Lithuania, on Tuesday [23 June] called on the Governments of Poland and Lithuania to guarantee the human rights and the minority rights to the Polish Lithuanians.

The conference, which concluded its debate on Tuesday, also called on nations and governments of the two countries to intensify efforts to remove "the painful and often tragic historical legacy through talks and mutual concessions."

Chairman of the Vilnius conference and Deputy Chairman of the Polish Union Council in Britain Czeslaw Zychowicz told reporters at a news conference here that it is not true that the Polish Lithuanians have no rights at all, but he admitted that they have a limited scope of rights.

"Both sides made many mistakes, that is why there are tensions in the Polish-Lithuanian relations, Zychowicz said and urged the two sides to "cooperate, show understanding and be tolerant to one another."